



Daily Report

Latin America

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CONTENTS

9 March 1994

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.
An Ω indicates a Foreign Media Note.

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Foreign Minister Robaina Arrives in Jakarta [Havana Radio]	1
Trip Activities Detailed [Havana Radio]	1
Weekly Publishes, Views U.S. 'Secret' Document [Havana TV]	1
Commentator Criticizes Alexander Watson's Stand [Havana Radio]	2
Delegation Elected Vice President to Crime Congress [Havana Radio]	3
Vietnamese Donation of Pencils, Notebooks Arrives [Havana Radio]	3

Haiti

Episcopal Conference Members To Meet With Pope [Port-au-Prince Radio]	3
Military Police Arrest, Beat Aristide Backers [Madrid EFE]	4
Army Defends 'Operations' Against 'Terrorists' [Port-au-Prince Radio]	4
Jean-Louis Back in Senate Office; Sansaricq Vows To Return [Port-au-Prince Radio]	4
Sansaricq Senate Office Asks Employees To Stay Home [Port-au-Prince Radio]	5
Pro-Military Senators Prevent Entrance [NOTIMEX]	5
Paul Admits FNCD Split; Urges Unity [Port-au-Prince Radio]	5
Aristide: Haitians Should Shape Country's Destiny [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO 6 Mar]	6
Radio Reports U.S. Regret Over Rejection of Plan [Port-au-Prince Radio]	7
Correction on Further on CONACOM News Conference	7
Correction to Army Said To Oppose Initiative	7

MEXICO

Attorney General's Office on Tijuana Shoot-Out [Mexico City TV]	8
State Judicial Police Reorganized [Mexico City Radio]	8
EZLN's Marcos Interviewed on State of Law [Mexico City TV]	9
Police 'Violently Evict' Peasants From Chiapas Land [Hamburg DPA]	9
Roundup of Economic Developments [LA JORNADA 1 Mar, etc.]	10

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

President-Elect Designates Cabinet Members [Hamburg DPA]	12
--	----

El Salvador

Government Declines U.S. Donation of Canned Foods [LA PRENSA GRAFICA 7 Mar]	12
Studies on NAFTA Impact on Central America Viewed [EL DIARIO DE HOY 7 Mar]	13
Tribunal Magistrate Denies Army Use in Elections [San Salvador TV]	13
World Bank Funds Structural Adjustment Project [NOTIMEX]	14

Guatemala

Government-URNG Peace Talks Continue in Mexico	14
Army Said Willing To Accept Peace Commission [PRENSA LIBRE 5 Mar]	14
Defense Minister Confident of Accord [SIGLO VEINTIUNO 8 Mar]	14

Talks End Without Agreement [NOTIMEX]	15
Retired Army Men Implicated in Bridge Attack [PRENSA LIBRE 8 Mar]	15
Union Leaders Take 100 Hostage, Demand Wage Hikes [NOTIMEX]	15

Nicaragua

Pallais: San Juan River Threat 'Exaggerated' [BARRICADA 7 Mar]	16
3-80 Northern Front Issues Communique on RN Unity [Managua Radio]	16
Roundup of Economic Developments [Managua Radio]	17

Panama

Deputy Minister: DEA Not Violating Sovereignty [LA PRENSA 8 Mar]	17
PRD Legislator Alleges Presence of Mideast 'Terrorists' [EL PANAMA AMERICA 8 Mar]	17
PRD Requests Investigation of Intimidation Charges [Panama City TV]	18
Poll Shows Perez Balladares Ahead [Panama City TV]	18
Russian Company To Attend Expocomer Trade Fair [LA PRENSA 1 Mar]	18

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Falkland Oil Exploration Cooperation Sought [CLARIN 7 Mar]	19
Intelligence Head Meets UK Intelligence Chiefs [CLARIN 7 Mar]	19
Enthusiasm Over Brazilian Economic Plan Viewed [CLARIN 7 Mar]	20
Police Arrest Spanish Drug Trafficker [NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]	20

Bolivia

DEA 'Human Rights Violations' Case Being Heard [La Paz TV]	20
President Views Clashes, Compliance With Law 1008 [La Paz TV]	20
Peasant Leader Urges Prefect To End Coca Eradication [LOS TIEMPOS 20 Feb]	21

Brazil

Venezuelan Ties 'Reactivated' After 150 Years [GAZETA MERCANTIL 7 Mar]	21
President Promulgates Four-Party Nuclear Accord [GAZETA MERCANTIL 2 Mar]	22
Cardoso Electoral Alliance Possibilities Viewed [O GLOBO 6 Mar]	22
Editorial Views Alternatives if Cardoso Leaves Post [O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 2 Mar] ..	23
PT Leader Vows To Fight To End Cuban Blockade [Madrid EFE]	24
Lula Da Silva Changes Electoral Strategy [O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 7 Mar]	24
Former President Sarney Not To Run For Presidency [O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 1 Mar]	25
\$1 Million in Fake U.S. Currency Seized [Rio de Janeiro TV]	25
Police Investigate Drug-Weapons Trafficking Link [FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 27 Feb]	25
Disputes Weaken, Divide Drug Rings in Rio [FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 27 Feb]	26

Colombia

Prosecutor General's Office Protests DEA Visit [Santa Fe de Bogota TV]	26
Bomb Attack Against Justice Palace Aborted [Hamburg DPA]	27
Roundup of Economic Developments [EL TIEMPO 28 Feb, etc]	27

Ecuador

Defense Minister Repeats Denial of Coup Rumors [Madrid EFE]	27
Majority Wants Referendum on Reforms [Quito Radio]	27
Prices Increase 4 Percent in Feb [Quito Radio]	28

Paraguay

Article Views Workers' Congress, Scheduled Strike [ULTIMA HORA 7 Mar]	28
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Peru

Army Kills Patrol 'Terrorist'; Weapons Seized [Madrid EFE]	28
Russian Fishing Ships Licensed for Peruvian Waters [EL COMERCIO 18 Feb]	29
DPRK Vice President Meets Congress Vice President [EXPRESO 24 Feb]	29

Cuba

Foreign Minister Robaina Arrives in Jakarta

FL0803224994 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina arrived today in Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia, the first stop on his tour of South and Southeast Asian countries. His tour includes Laos; Myanmar, formerly known as Burma; Cambodia; India; Malaysia; and Vietnam.

In declarations to the press before his departure, Robaina explained that Cuba would like to observe the economic results attained in some of these countries. He went on to say that even though no agreements are expected to be signed, the visits will allow Cuba to extend and open new possibilities for cooperation. Robaina pointed out that among the topics to be discussed with the various governments are the role of the nonaligned movement and the upcoming meeting of foreign ministers that will be held in Cairo toward the end of May.

Robaina is scheduled to meet with heads of governments, businessmen, associations of friendship with Cuba, representatives of the press, and his counterparts.

Trip Activities Detailed

FL0803225194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Telephone conversation between reporter Rey Rodriguez, for Cuban radio and television and PRENSA LATINA, and Rebelde reporter Roberto Cavada from Jakarta—live]

[Text] [Cavada] This is a direct link via satellite with Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia, where Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina arrived a few hours ago, beginning a tour of several Asian countries. I have reporter Rey Rodriguez on the line, who is accompanying the foreign minister as a representative of the Cuban radio and television network and PRENSA LATINA. Rodriguez will give us further details on the foreign minister's activities, for all Cubans.

Rodriguez, I think it is appropriate to tell the Cuban people about the initial activities in Jakarta of the Cuban delegation headed by Roberto Robaina. Greetings from Havana, Rey.

[Rodriguez] Well, Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina arrived in Jakarta tonight at approximately 1930 for an official visit to Indonesia, the first leg of his tour of seven Asian countries. At the Sukarno-Hatta International Airport, the foreign minister was welcomed by Sukhari Siregar, director of the Indonesian Foreign Ministry's American Department, and by Latin American ambassadors accredited to this country.

When asked by the local press, Robaina said that one of the objectives of this trip is to describe the true situation in his country, as well as the reforms being carried out in the economic area. Concerning Robaina's objective in the commercial area, which is to strengthen trade relations with this country, Robaina said:

[Begin Robaina recording] From the commercial point of view, there are already important links with Indonesia. But above all, there are new possibilities for investments in my country. In the medical and pharmaceutical industry, and in the area of (?meteorology), Cuba has obtained modest results which I think may be of interest to you. In the particular case of Cuban relations with Indonesia, you are aware of certain negotiations that have already been established. These areas are as important as rice, oil, and [word indistinct] which we hope will be increased. [end recording]

This is all we can tell you about the Cuban foreign minister's activities today in Jakarta. Are you listening there, Cavada?

[Cavada] Yes. We read you clearly, Rey. We wish to thank you for the work you are doing and for providing us with further information on the activities of the Cuban foreign minister and his retinue in Jakarta. This has been a live, direct link with reporter Rey Rodriguez who is accompanying Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina Gonzalez through several Asian countries, beginning with Indonesia.

Weekly Publishes, Views U.S. 'Secret' Document

FL0703134894 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] We are standing in front of the U.S. Interests Section as a consequence of the publication today by the weekly JUVENTUD REBELDE of an article signed by Luis Baez Delgado. The article is entitled: "Sullivan, the CIA, and the Splinter Groups: Alliance To Fabricate Lies." It refers to a highly secret document issued by the U.S. Interests Section here in Havana. JUVENTUD REBELDE also published the full text of the document.

According to Baez Delgado, the document, which is addressed to the CIA among other addressees, is indisputable evidence not only of the lies and falsehoods dreamed up and disseminated against the Cuban Revolution, but also of the absolute cleanliness and justice that have always characterized us.

Baez Delgado adds that throughout the past 35 years Cuba has time and again stated that in this country there has never been a murdered, tortured, or missing citizen. This truth no one can deny, as no one can deny that here no one is under arrest for political reasons, but only for crimes against the Revolution, and that the so-called dissidents are only cheap CIA and U.S. Interests Section puppets.

According to the article, those who dedicate their lives to the ideas in which they believe neither persecute or imprison because of those ideas, as the CIA and the U.S. Interests Section have done. Those who believe in principles respect those principles. Those who fight for the dignity and honor of men will never be their executioners but will be their most faithful defenders.

Joseph Sullivan, head of the U.S. Interests Section, knows this very well, although he may dare to say so only secretly. Let us pay special attention to some of the sentences of this document, which, in ambiguous phrases, and considering the author and addressees, comes to an unavoidable conclusion: In Cuba there are no violations of human rights. This was not said by Fidel Castro; it was admitted by Joseph Sullivan.

The document includes unreliable cases, unverifiable documents or evidence, cases that are not congruous in certain aspects and which are of interest only to the United States. The general unreliability of the cases and the recognition of the economic rather than the political factor as the essential cause of emigration prove the above points.

The moral status of the members of those splinter groups stands out in the document. According to Baez Delgado, the leaders of those little groups peddle written guarantees like trinkets; they perpetrate fraud; they accuse one another and violate among themselves the most fundamental human rights, in addition to biting the hands that guide and feed them.

Moreover, Sullivan's document only adds further questions to the arguments that various U.S. Presidents have advanced all through these past years to intensify their policy of blockade against Cuba and makes the backward and ruthless individuals who are trying to defeat us through hunger look like liars.

According to the article, those who are trying to emigrate by entering embassies that happen to represent countries with which we have the best relations are also disappointed. No one with such objectives should violate the diplomatic missions of any country, much less if those embassies are not committed to any agreement to grant asylum. Among these candidates for emigration, none has had any political problem. The U.S. Interests Section document has finally unveiled this trick.

Sullivan's call to the CIA for help is very eloquent. The document states that given the expressed CIA interests in the human rights issue, and its growing participation in and growing knowledge of the different human rights groups, we suggest closer cooperation with the U.S. Interests Section in accordance with our common objectives.

This shows, Baez Delgado adds, that the police of the unipolar world have run out of steam and bullets. The moral bullets of the Revolution have once again demonstrated that they have a much longer range. The small

island of Indians is once again giving a lesson to the North. Only a quarter of a century ago, they looked down on us; now they respect us.

On 28 June 1987, referring to the human rights issue and to the imperialist anti-Cuban campaign, Fidel Castro said: In our struggle against tyranny, we have been educated to repudiate and hate any use of violence against a prisoner; and those values have led us to victory. Those values have maintained us here, and history will see that this truth is written.

Baez Delgado ends his article by saying that history has once again proven that we are right and if, in their confusion or arrogance, the CIA, the State Department, the Immigration and Nationalization Service, and Sullivan himself deny the existence of the document and say that it was fabricated by the Cuban Government, they should be aware that the Revolution has never made up a document and that its honesty has always been irrefutable.

Caught redhanded, it is natural that their position is uncomfortable and embarrassing, Baez Delgado's article concludes.

Commentator Criticizes Alexander Watson's Stand

FL0803020194 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Commentary by reporter Pedro Pradas]

[Text] Facts dissipate doubts. While the world demands the end of economic and political genocide by the United States against Cuba, and while the United Nations calls for an end to retaliations, Deputy Secretary of State Alexander Watson [title as heard] requests democratic diversity, which is ironically dogmatic and orthodox, and which denies the Cuban people's right to diversity and pluralism.

Europe is beginning to discuss the decline of representative democracy by political parties, and Cuba, which has taken a step beyond with its rejuvenating political system and civil society, is unjustly described by government officials and other figures who speak to us today in a language that was buried in 1989 on the island of Malta.

This sad scenario has been chosen for their second-rate cast of characters who have been given indigestion by the fact that the Colombian Government and businessmen do not take what is being said in Miami about Cuba very seriously. The decision adopted by Bogota and Havana to negotiate the sale of between 15,000 and 20,000 barrels of oil under current commercial terms is judged in outdated, threatening terms and language.

Trade retaliations are being adopted against Colombian exports of flowers, barriers are erected against Colombian coffee, while the preparation of a black list of other Colombian products has also been announced. How long can one put up with such meddling in relations with

third countries? Don't these events show that the blockade is a war of extraterritorial scale against Cuba? Why should we continue living under the sway of blacklists as if they were Damocles' sword. Of course any new factor attracts one's attention.

Representatives of the National Cuban-American Foundation in Bogota refused to endorse the boycott which was called by their own organization, while demonstrations in front of the Colombian consulate in Miami this past weekend were suspended for a lack of quorum. Moreover, it has been learned that a meeting of ultrarightist immigrants for the establishment of joint actions has ended in a brouhaha. It just happens that those characters are the same ones who criticize the forthcoming meeting between the nation and its emigrants, and try to monopolize, for the benefit of their own pockets and treasuries, the positions of migrants toward their homeland.

I wish to ask the following question then: Would they submit to a plebiscite to truly verify whom they represent? Of course, Miami is not an essential goal for Colombian trade, only the port of entry for Colombian products to the United States. The Colombians, in turn, have said that they cannot submit their commercial policy to remarks from groups who are divorced from their country of origin. It would be extremely dramatic for the Colombians to have to ask permission from a group of Cubans from Miami in order to negotiate with whomever they want.

Thus, a defender of democratic diversity such as Mr. Watson should be worried about and dedicated to these violations of democratic diversity which are so similar to the covert and not-so-laudable wars of the civil and human rights movements of the civilized peoples, or has Mr. Watson perhaps become a hostage of prehistory?

Delegation Elected Vice President to Crime Congress

FL0803213894 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Cuba was elected a vice president to the preparatory meeting of Latin America and the Caribbean for the Ninth UN Congress on Crime Prevention and the Treatment of Criminals, which is being held in San Jose, Costa Rica. The proposal was made by the Bolivian delegation and was unanimously backed by the meeting's attending delegations. Argentina and Bolivia were elected as the other vice presidents of the meeting, and the host country was elected president.

During the meeting's sessions, the delegations will analyze various topics in an effort to define the position that Latin America will take at the UN congress. Included among the topics are: international cooperation and technical assistance to strengthen application of the law in the prevention of crime, penal justice, prevention of

delinquency, the crime commission [comision de delitos] in urban zones, and measures against economic crime.

The Cuban delegation is composed of (Araceli Careaga), who is heading the delegation; (Eliseo Zamora), an official of the Foreign Ministry; and (Renin Quiros), a specialist in the Ministry of Justice.

Vietnamese Donation of Pencils, Notebooks Arrives

FL0903004394 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2030 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] A shipment of pencils and notebooks donated by Vietnam has arrived in Cuba. This donation, consisting of 500,000 notebooks and the same number of pencils, arrived in the port of Nicaro, in the Mayari Municipality, Holguin Province. This donation was sent to Cuba aboard the ship (Rose Island) by the Vietnamese Youth League.

This gift from the young Vietnamese people will be distributed among Education Ministry schools in the provinces of Santiago de Cuba, Las Tunas, Granma, Guantanamo, and Holguin. This is the first shipment of a plan for 10 million of these school items.

The unloading at the Nicaro pier was carried out by (Rene Ramos Latur Nickel Mining Company) workers, with the support of coast guard members and students from the Mayari community.

Cuban Government officials and local Cuban Communist Party members from Mayari expressed thanks for the donation from the Vietnamese Youth League, and stressed the significance of this donation during the country's current period.

Haiti

Episcopal Conference Members To Meet With Pope

FL0703214394 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Excerpt] The members of the Haitian Episcopal Conference [CEH] will go to Rome around 15 March reportedly to meet with Pope John II. Relations between the Aristide government and the Vatican have always been very strained. However, over the past weekend, President Aristide said he hopes for a coming together of his government and the Holy See. Jean-Bertrand Aristide labeled the contacts started last week between Vatican and his government a step in the right direction. [passage omitted]

Military Police Arrest, Beat Aristide Backers
*PA0803043894 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0141 GMT
 8 Mar 94*

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 7 Mar (EFE)—Haitian military police today arrested the leader of a popular organization that supports exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Two policemen arrested Johnson Aristide of the grassroots organization "Sun of Justice for the Liberation of the Haitian People" [Sol de la Justicia para la Liberacion del Pueblo Haitiano] while he attempted to deliver a press note to Radio Plus, a radio station in downtown Port-au-Prince, the Haitian press agency reported.

Aristide, who is not related to the president, was struck and forced into an automobile used by the police, the source informed.

Soldiers arrested several of President Aristide's supporters this weekend in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area.

Uniformed members of the military arrested Engineer Jacques Dorcean in the Thomassin area in eastern Port-au-Prince. Dorcean is a well-known supporter of the Lavalas Movement, which backed the exiled president in the December 1990 elections.

According to press reports, 20-year-old Val Maxime [not further identified] was also arrested and seriously beaten.

On Saturday, the home of Jean-Camille Calvin in Lillavois, an alleged Aristide follower, was strafed with machine-gun fire. Lillavois lives in northern Port-au-Prince.

So far the military has not released any information regarding the reason for the arrests.

Army Defends 'Operations' Against 'Terrorists'
*FL0803225294 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in
 French 1700 GMT 8 Mar 94*

[Text] Haitian Armed Forces Headquarters announced that the forces of order conducted simultaneous operations in the regions of Malick, Petionville, Thomassin 23, and Carrefour-Marin, Croix-des-Bouquets, on 5 March. During these operations, a stockpile of weapons, ammunition, and explosives were seized, and some people were arrested.

The preliminary elements of the investigation, according to the press release, confirm that this group of terrorists intended that same day to attack military posts in the capital and in the Central Department, to perpetrate attacks against civilian leaders, and against members of the Haitian Armed Forces and their relatives.

The Army Headquarters, in this press release, asks all Haitians for actions favoring the spirit of dialogue, consultation, and reconciliation in view of finding a

Haitian solution to our country's problems, for too long wounded by the division among its children.

Jean-Louis Back in Senate Office; Sansaricq Vows To Return

*FL0803213694 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in
 French 1130 GMT 8 Mar 94*

[Excerpts] The members of the Senate Office presided over by Firmin Jean-Louis returned to their offices in the Senate on 7 March. This caused tension within the Senat.

Senator Bernard Sansaricq, president of the unofficial [Senate] office, promises to return to the attack via the law, with a view to taking back control of the Senate Office. The following is a report by Daly Valet:

[Begin recording, in Creole] [Valet] Firmin Jean-Louis, president of the normalized Senate—who was in Washington—has returned to Haiti. However, he did not return to the country just to stand by and and watch Bernard Sansaricq's unofficial Senate Office do it all.

Jean-Louis and Sen. Julio Larosiliere went into action very early on 7 March. They took back their offices, which were occupied by Bernard Sansaricq's team.

President Jean-Louis and Quaestor Larosiliere said, however, that they are not there to engage in confrontations; rather, they are there for reconciliation. This is why Sen. Larosiliere has proffered the olive branch to Sen. Sansaricq. Larosiliere also asked the parliamentarians elected in the 18 January elections to respect the New York pact, which they signed and which provided for them to refrain from attending Senate sessions while waiting for a solution to be found by the arbitration committee provided for in the Constitution. [passage omitted]

Jean-Louis and Larosiliere were not content with taking back control of the Senate. They have already announced that the Senate will meet in normal session on 8 March to work on the parliamentary plan for resolving the crisis. This plan has already passed the Chamber of Deputies. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, in the unofficial Senate Office, everybody is very angry. Sen. Sansaricq stated he would take back the presidency of the Senate using any and all means. For his part, Osny Eugene, quaestor of the unofficial office, has affirmed that Firmin Jean-Louis will be unable to hold sessions at the Senate.

[Unidentified journalist] Senator Sansaricq, since we see that Firmin Jean-Louis is there, will you go to your office this morning [7 March]?

[Sansaricq] I will take it back by any and all means. I have no further comments to make. Whether I take it back in 24 or in 48 hours, we will restore the order we had established. You can write that down.

[Journalist] What strategy will you use: confrontation, force?

[Sansaricq] [Response indistinct]

[Journalist] Senator, are you ready to talk with the members of the other Office? Are you ready to engage in dialog or will you use force?

[Sansaricq] No comment.

[Journalist] So, you are ready for dialogue?

[Sansaricq] No comment.

[Journalist] [Words indistinct] compromise, Mr. President [of the Senate]?

[Sansaricq] No, no. No comment.

[Journalist] But, will you be in your office on 8 March?

[Sansaricq] No comment. I will be in my office. No comment.

[Journalist] Will you be conducting the session on 8 March?

[Sansaricq] We will use any means we must, but we will be in the office.

[Journalist] [Words indistinct] legal force, Senator?

[Sansaricq] Exactly. [passage omitted]

[Valet] Firmin Jean-Louis and Julio Larosiliere have taken back their offices at the Senate. Bernard Sansaricq and Osny Eugene are angry. Senators Serge Joseph and Romel Manigat, for their part, have gun and rifle in hand. The Senate of the Republic has become a stage. This is Daly Valet for Signal FM. [end recording]

Sansaricq Senate Office Asks Employees To Stay Home

FL0803230494 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] The quaestorship of the Senate of the Republic offers congratulations to staff members and advises that in view of the tense situation developing within the administration since the return from abroad of the members of the office dismissed by resolution dated 4 February, it was decided to ask the staff to remain at home until further notice to allow the senators to settle their dispute.

This communique is signed by Dr. Osny Eugene, senator of the Republic and quaestor of the Senate office presided over by Bernard Sansaricq.

Pro-Military Senators Prevent Entrance

PA0903040894 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0236 GMT 9 Mar 94

[By Edwige Balutansky]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 8 Mar (NOTIMEX)—Today with the support of military men and armed civilians, pro-military senators barred administrative personnel from entering the Senate. Bernard Sansaricq, who proclaimed himself president of the Haitian Senate on 4 February, led the operation to prevent Senate leaders who oppose the military government from taking their seats.

According to Radio Metropole, military men occupied the Senate and shots were heard in the area surrounding the legislative building in Port-au-Prince. Armed civilians surrounded the building and were arresting people who opposed pro-coupist parliamentarians. No information on the number of people detained or their whereabouts is available.

Political observers think the coupists found a way to "close off" the Senate, an objective which has been announced many times by those who oppose President Jean Bertrand Aristide's return. Senate President Farmin Jean Louis, who was elected in the negotiations supervised by the international community in August 1993, was in Washington on a State Department invitation for a new round of talks when he was deposed. Jean Louis and the other senators who rejected the views of Sansaricq and his followers, left the parliament because of death threats against them. This Monday, Jean Louis and Senator Julio Larosiliere, who was in Washington also, arrived at the Senate for the first time since their return and announced their determination to reoccupy their seats.

Diplomats in Port-au-Prince have said that the international community does not know who the senators led by Sansaricq are, considering that Jean Louis' mandate is still effective.

Several Haitian women's organizations took advantage of the commemoration of International Women's Day on Tuesday to express their dissatisfaction with UNICEF, an organization that, they say, has remained silent on the abuses perpetrated against them by the coupist military.

Paul Admits FNCD Split; Urges Unity

FL0803233394 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] The appearance of contradictions within the National Front for Change and Democracy, FNCD, is normal, said Port-au-Prince Mayor Evans Paul during an interview with the information service of the Research and Action Center for Development [Centre de Recherches et d'Actions pour le Developpement, CRAD]. A copy of this interview reached the Haitian press agency.

After admitting that there has been a weakening of the front in the Chamber of Deputies, Paul asserted that dialogue could resolve the conflicts that have arisen within the front, to avoid social explosion [corrects

himself] sorry, total explosion. He added that divergences within the FNCD are the product of circumstance, and could be easily resolved. In his opinion, the proposal voted as a resolution in the Lower Chamber must be analyzed and tailored to the stance expressed by President Aristide, whose views must be taken into account in order to reach a compromise.

Paul explained that FNCD's stance has not changed since 16 February, when it rejected the appointment of a puppet prime minister. In conclusion, Paul invites all sectors to express unity so the solution to the crisis does not come exclusively from the United Nations or the four countries called, Friends of Haiti.

Aristide: Haitians Should Shape Country's Destiny

PY0903115994 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 6 Mar 94 p 37

[Interview with President-in-exile Jean-Bertrand Aristide by O GLOBO Correspondent Deborah Berlinck in Geneva; date not given]

[Text] [Berlinck] Since you were exiled from Haiti in 1991, Mr. President, every diplomatic way to reinstate you in office was attempted—a countless number of negotiations, embargoes on trade with Haiti. Do you think that foreign military intervention will be necessary?

[Aristide] If 67 percent of the Haitian people voted for me three years ago, more than 90 percent of Haitians are at present requesting my reinstatement as president. Despite the more than 100,000 murders perpetrated by the military, the Haitian people are determined to continue struggling for their dignity and the defense of their rights. The international community ought to express more clearly its political will to support us. The trade embargo is not enough to oblige military putschists to hand over power.

[Berlinck] What do you expect, Mr. President? An American military intervention?

[Aristide] We do not need a military intervention but rather a show of political will by those who claim to be our friends. Democracy in Haiti will not just rain down from heaven, you know.

[Berlinck] The United States has crossed Haiti off its list of foreign policy priorities. Why has the United States abandoned you?

[Aristide] Haiti's fate will be defined by the Haitian people, and not by others. Haiti is a country that presently has an 80-percent illiteracy rate. But fortunately, illiterate people are not morons—they manifest their intelligence with courage. We are struggling to impose the rule of law in our country without expecting a solution from others. The solution will have to stem from our struggle.

[Berlinck] To what extent are you willing to negotiate with the military about your reinstatement as Haitian president?

[Aristide] We are Haiti. And when I say us, I do not refer only to myself. We are not fighting for power only; we are fighting to establish democracy in our country. If the international community respects its commitment to the agreement (which provided for his reinstatement in office last December, but which was not honored by the military), the people will become involved.

[Berlinck] And if the military were to impose as a condition holding new elections?

[Aristide] No, the people have already decided and their will must be respected. We will be flexible in our answer, and we will respond with dignity in the face of complicity. Last January, four countries that claim to be our friends issued an ultimatum to the military to step down from power lest they should impose more sanctions against Haiti. And what has come of it? Or is there complicity in this affair?

[Berlinck] The military insist that an amnesty be declared for them.

[Aristide] The agreement signed last year includes a political amnesty for the military. That provision was honored. We have done everything possible for the agreement and the military will have to step down. I spent hours thinking about the agreement last July before signing it because I was convinced that this strategy of co-existence with the military would lead us to annihilation. They assassinated our justice minister. How many more ministers do we have to lose? If there is international complicity, the military will demand other concessions.

[Berlinck] Are you then ready to wait in exile as long as necessary until you can be reinstated as president under your own conditions, Mr. President?

[Aristide] I am ready to continue fighting with my people. Power for power's sake can only lead to corruption and Leonardo Boff [a lifelong advocate of the Theology of Liberation] has already warned about this. We want to institute the rule of law and our time in exile ought to contribute to making our historical progress toward that objective fruitful.

[Berlinck] What would you do, Mr. President, to reestablish order in your country if you were reinstated as president now?

[Aristide] While not encouraging revenge, I would try to put an end to impunity. I am in favor of a reconciliation process based on justice. Our country is at present like a broken vase—we must pick up the fragments and piece them together once again.

[Berlinck] What do you expect of the United Nations Mr. President?

[Aristide] I expect that the United Nations may save face because a failure of its endeavors in Haiti will spell the end of its credibility.

[Berlinck] Do you feel that Latin American governments support you, Mr. President?

[Aristide] Yes, I do. When I was in Brazil, I felt that Brazilians showed solidarity with Haitian people because deep down we have similar problems. I found friends like Leonardo Boff, who wrote the foreword for my latest book. I look to the future with optimism when I see the dynamic force of Third World countries, of Brazil, of Haiti.

Radio Reports U.S. Regret Over Rejection of Plan

FL0803213794 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] The first news report is on the statements made on 7 March in the United States by the U.S. Government regarding President Aristide's rejection of the crisis settlement plan. The U.S. Administration termed very regrettable the exiled president's rejection of the plan to settle the crisis presented by Haitian legislators. Rothschild Francois reports:

[Francois] It is very regrettable that President Aristide rejected the offer of cooperation that the UN secretary general made to him—said U.S. State Department spokesperson Christine Shelly.

The plan, actively backed by the United States and approved last week by the Chamber of Deputies in Port-au-Prince, provides for a new prime minister to take office following an early retirement by General Cedras but does not set a date for President Aristide's return to Port-au-Prince. The president was very firm on Saturday [5 March] in refusing this plan, because of what he called a lack of will and political cynicism on the part of the big western nations toward his return to power. He placed particular blame on the United States, whose policy of ambiguity toward him he denounced.

According to Mr. Aristide, there is no solution possible outside of the framework of the Governors Island agreement, signed in New York last July. This agreement provided for the overthrown president to return on 30 October 1993 and for the military authors of the 30 September 1991 coup d'etat to step down before that date.

The State Department spokesperson added: Our viewpoint is that the plan includes the key elements that are part of the agreement and of the Governors Island accord process. We are aware of President Aristide's criticism but we continue to think that the plan offers the best possibilities for ending the crisis in Haiti.

Correction on Further on CONACOM News Conference

FL0703214094

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Further on CONACOM 3 Mar News Conference," published in the 7 March Latin America DAILY REPORT, pages 7-8:

Second item under the Haiti section, first paragraph, sentence two to sentence three, make read: ...Besides Victor Benoit, who is the minister of national education and National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD] spokesman, those present were Dunois Eric Cantave, former Aristide Presidential Commission member Micha Gaillard, and National Front for Change and Democracy Parliamentary Bloc [BP-FNCD] president Jude Marie-Jacinthe Jean-Baptiste. The following is... (rewording for clarity)

Correction to Army Said To Oppose Initiative

PA0703181594

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Army Said To Oppose Legislative Initiative," published in the 7 March Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 8:

Column two, paragraph two, sentence one make read: ...radio stations termed "tumultuous." [new paragraph]

"It is too early... (providing dropped quotation marks and reparagraphing)

Attorney General's Office on Tijuana Shoot-Out

PA0803180794 Mexico City XEW Television Network
in Spanish 0435 GMT 8 Mar 94

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] The Attorney General's Office of the Republic [PGR] today remanded 16 people, including officials of the Baja California Attorney General's Office and suspected drug trafficker Higuera Guerrero. They are allegedly responsible for the shoot-out in Tijuana on Thursday [3 March] during which a Federal Judicial Police [PJF] commander, his assistant, and three other people were killed.

Agents of the state judicial police in Baja California, who were protecting drug traffickers, were responsible for the shoot-out with members of the PJF in Tijuana. In the shoot-out, Alejandro Castaneda Andrade, commander of the special group of the PJF in Tijuana; Salvador Miramontes Torres, agent of the state judicial police; Rayad Abdul Shedar, a Lebanese-origin professional criminal working for drug traffickers; and an unidentified individual were killed and five people were wounded.

Regarding this incident, which occurred on 3 March at Felix Gomez Street and Diaz Ordaz Boulevard in La Mesa District in Tijuana, Alfonso Cabrera Morales, deputy attorney general for districts and subdistricts of the PGR, issued the results of the investigations. He said the participation of some members of the state judicial police in the shoot-out has been proven. The motive for the shoot-out was the fact that the state judicial policemen were protecting Isamel Higuera Guerrero, alias El Mayel, a lieutenant of the Arellano Felix brothers, when he was going to be arrested by the PJF. The state judicial policemen attacked the PJF members, and in the shoot-out drug trafficker Ismael Higuera Guerrero was able to escape. He has been identified as the individual who has inherited control of drug trafficking in Tijuana as a result of the search for the Arellano Felix brothers.

Eleven [number as heard] individuals identified as people at the service of the Baja California Attorney General's Office have been remanded. These include Sergio Ortiz Lara, deputy state attorney general [subprocurador de justicia del estado] in Tijuana, and Juan Carlos Guerrero, agent of the Attorney General's Office for the court of equity [agente del ministerio publico del fuero comun]. They are accused of abuse of authority, aiding the mass escape of prisoners, and crimes against the administration of justice. They are both free as they filed amparos when they appeared to make their statements. Arrest warrants have been issued for five group leaders of the state judicial police and the operational commander of the Tijuana municipal police for the same crime [not further specified].

State Judicial Police Reorganized

PA0903023394 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in
Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Report by Jaime Flores in Baja California State; from the "ACIR Radio News" newscast—live]

[Text] [Flores] At noon, Juan Francisco Franco Rios, attorney general for Baja California State, announced a total reorganization of the Baja California Judicial Police. This is what he said:

[Begin Rios recording] In 15 days, we will totally reorganize the state's Judicial Police. When I say totally, I mean the absolute and complete reorganization relating to the actions and conduct of Judicial Police members. [end recording]

At a news conference, the state attorney general said that bad policemen will be dismissed immediately, especially those who took part in Thursday's shoot-out, here in Tijuana, where Federal Judicial Police Commander Salvador Miramontes Torres died, federal policeman Juan Jesus Hernandez Tejeda was seriously wounded, and a state policeman was also killed.

Franco Rios reiterated that the investigation continues so as to supply the judge handling the case with the most evidence so he can best ascertain the responsibility of the policemen involved as well as the involvement of Tijuana Assistant Attorney General Sergio Ortiz Lara and the group leaders named by the Attorney General's Office.

The attorney general said that many of these policemen went to the scene of the shoot-out to do their duty but their names are listed in the case. He also said that on Monday two agents from Attorney General's Office in Ensenada and Mexicali arrived here in Tijuana to continue the case and to clarify which agents are involved in drug trafficking. Finally, Deputy Alejandro Monraz called for the creation of a special Prosecutor's Office, with no connection with the state Attorney General's Office, to investigate Thursday night's shoot-out in La Mesa area, where four people were killed and eight, wounded.

[Announcer] I asked you if this is in response to the Thursday shoot-out?

[Flores] Yes, of course. The Attorney General's Office held a news conference on Sunday here in Tijuana. It was learned that there is a direct connection between the shoot-out and State Judicial Police. Many of them are at the state Attorney General's Office right now. No arrests warrants have been issued yet, even though many were detained. At least three group leaders are accused of being involved in the shoot-out, especially as bodyguards of a lieutenant working for the Arellano Felix brothers. They said they sold protection to the lieutenant.

EZLN's Marcos Interviewed on State of Law

PA0903023594 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 8 Mar 94

[First of "several" installments of a report by Raul Rodriguez on an interview with Subcommander Marcos, spokesman for the Zapatist National Liberation Army, EZLN, by Television Azteca special correspondent Francisco Rubio; place and date not given; from the "First Thing in the Morning" newscast—passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] In Chiapas, dialogue has been chosen over force. However, in developing this strategy, which benefits the country, the respect for the state of law has not been strictly observed. Subcommander Marcos himself addressed the issue in an exclusive interview by Francisco Rubio, special correspondent for Television Azteca, just before leaving for the mountains to meet with the Indian communities. He addressed the paradox regarding the legality of the illegality of the negotiation process, the authority of those who discussed the issues, and the legal validity of the resulting agreements.

[Marcos] "It is a paradox. Two people who do not exist are talking. On the one side there is a commissioner who does not legally exist. On the other, there is a Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN] that does not legally exist either. Furthermore, there is an intermediary who does not legally exist either. This, legally speaking, is all science fiction."

[Constitutional law expert Ignacio Burgos] "The so-called Marcos is an unknown individual. He is an enigma. No one knows who he is. He says he represents the indigenous peoples of Chiapas State, but that representation remains unproven. On the other hand we have Camacho Solis who appointed himself the commissioner for peace. He has not been invested with any sort of authority because he does not represent the Mexican president, the state, or the government."

Other specialists and experts, without contradicting the law, express the opposite.

[Raul Carranca y Rivas, of the National Autonomous University of Mexico Law School] "The government, Subcommander Marcos, and Marcos' followers accepted this ideological confrontation, where talks are the main element. Given these circumstances, the process gains its legal status. What I mean is that two parties meet by mutual accord to resolve ideological conflicts, to reach conclusions, and to find agreements. This is an agreement in itself, which we could call legal."

However, what can be said about the validity and binding nature of the agreements?

[Marcos] "The agreements we can reach here are quite fragile no matter from what angle one looks at them. The person signing for one party does not have the authority necessary; not one single group has authorized him to do

so. The person signing for the other party is nothing more than a ski mask with a pseudonym."

[Carranca y Rivas] "As long as Mr. Camacho has the blessing of the president and Marcos has the blessing of his people, they automatically become legal agreeing parties."

According to Commissioner Camacho, federal and state government officials will sign the agreements in San Cristobal. Riding on that fact is the validity and the binding authority the agreements will enjoy.

Police 'Violently Evict' Peasants From Chiapas Land

PA0903031094 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0124 GMT 9 Mar 94

[Text] San Cristobal de las Casas, Mexico, 8 Mar (DPA)—Today, the police violently evicted Indian peasants from four tracts of land they had occupied several days earlier in the northern area of San Cristobal de las Casas, in the convulsed southern state of Chiapas. Witnesses reported that the police arrested some 20 Indians and stole some of the squatters' belongings, like television sets, radio recorders, and kitchen ware.

The Indian peasants' eviction from land plots is one of the demands included in an extensive petition presented yesterday by the Citizens' Front for the Defense of San Cristobal, composed of this Chiapas city's influential and wealthy people. Nevertheless, today, the group, headed by San Cristobal Mayor Jorge Mario Lescieur Talavera, told Chiapas Governor Javier Lopez Moreno of their decision to waive their demands, which included the expulsion of Bishop Samuel Ruiz, mediator between the government and the Zapatist National Liberation Army [EZLN].

Among other things, the Citizens' Front demanded that San Cristobal de las Casas stop hosting the peace talks between the government and the EZLN and that all the catechists and priests who promoted the theology of liberation, whom the Citizens' Front had accused of "masterminding" the guerrilla movement, leave town. They also demanded the Catholic churches be temporarily closed. They regard the churches as centers for "aiding and abetting crime." In addition, the Citizens' Front demanded the expulsion of nongovernment organizations and the boycott of independent newspapers in the capital and San Cristobal, which they had accused of being EZLN mouthpieces.

The demands were presented in response to the mobilization of peasant and Indian groups demanding land and public services; demands that culminated in the occupation of several mayor's offices in Chiapas as a consequence of the Zapatist rebellion which broke out on 1 January.

In praising the decision of the Citizens' Front to waive its demands, Governor Moreno warned, however, that

legal orders will be enforced against those who have invaded land tracts and municipal buildings.

Roundup of Economic Developments

PA0803184994

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on Mexican economic developments monitored through 6 March 1994.

Fernando Cortina Legarreta, president of the Confederation of Industrial Chambers, has said the economy's "slow" growth rate will have little impact on job creation, illustrated by the fact only a number of jobs comparable to the number lost in 1993 will be created this year. He has said activities in other production sectors will increase in the coming months and will speed up until the GNP reaches 3 percent near the end of the year. He has said the industrial sector is not seeking refinancing, similar to that in the agricultural and livestock sector, for its overdue loans and that the private sector and the Association of Mexican Banks are talking to outline specific financing plans for every productive sector. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 1 Mar 94 p 43)

According to the Mexican Stock Exchange, the Mexican Government's internal debt increased by 40.3 billion pesos from January to the first half of February 1994, a 31.5-percent increase over the balance at the end of 1993. Most of the debt increase during the period was incurred by the placement of Treasury Bonds, through which the federal government obtained approximately 26.2 billion pesos; this amount is equivalent to 65 percent of the internal debt increase during the period. Circulating bonds representing the government's internal debt amounted to 168.1 billion pesos up to 16 February, one of the largest figures since September 1991. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 2 Mar 94 pp 60, 48)

As a result of the economic recession, 75 percent of the states experienced a negative employment rate at the end of 1993. According to the finance group Bancomer, the number of individuals registered at the Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS) was considerable, and 70,000 new jobs were opened. Bancomer reports in the east, where agricultural and livestock activities are predominant, 13,206 unemployed individuals were reported; in addition, IMSS has reported 29,000 jobs were lost due to the henequen crisis. Also, 641 new jobs were created in Chiapas, 2,730 in Oaxaca, 4,334 in Quintana Roo, and 2,333 in Campeche. Furthermore, 1,783 jobs were lost in Tabasco, 21,461 in Yucatan, and Tlaxcala, Veracruz, Hidalgo, and Puebla lost 8,273 jobs. (Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 2 Mar 94 p 16)

The National Banking Commission, Banamex, has reported as a result of a reshuffling of accounts in the banking system, low interest rates offered by banks, and the consistent loss of salaries' purchasing power, the number of savings accounts dropped by 61.45 percent in

just 24 months. Conversely, the number of time deposit accounts increased from 2,462,000 to 2,542,000, and the number of checking accounts increased from 3,510,000 to 4,453,000. Banamex experienced the greatest loss in accounts. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 3 Mar 94 p 7)

Banamex's preliminary figures for 1993 show a deficit of \$2.2 billion in the basic chemistry sector. This figure, one of the highest sector deficits in modern history, represents 20.7 percent of the total deficit. A large portion of last year's imports were products that require neither high technology nor large capital for the construction of new plants. For instance, the importation of fertilizers increased by 113.84 percent, to \$151.3 million; essential oils to \$35 million; chlorine to \$2.5 million; tanning extracts to \$14 million; medicines to \$185.2 million; and dyes and varnishes to \$178.9 million. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 3 Mar 94 p 8A)

According to Mexico City's National Chamber of Commerce (Canaco), sales by more than half of Mexico City's businesses dropped by approximately 39.1 percent last year, due mainly to the economic slowdown. Only 13.4 percent of businesses saw their sales increase by 13.1 percent. Interviewed businessmen have said the economic slowdown was the largest problem, particularly during the second half of the year. Some of the businessmen have interpreted the occurrence to the economic crisis, lack of liquidity, loss of purchasing power, and recession. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 3 Mar 94 p 24)

Mexican Petroleum, Pemex, has reported the corporation ended 1993 with a positive commercial balance of \$100.3 million. Pemex has reported the sale of petrochemical products in 1993 was \$17 million higher than in 1992 as the result of exporting 3,627 tonnes of greater value-added goods. During the same period, Pemex marketed in various countries 1,232,800 tonnes worth of goods, which brought \$202.6 million into the treasury; conversely, Pemex imported petrochemical products worth \$18.4 million less than in the same period of 1992. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0312 GMT 4 Mar 94)

A free trade agreement between Mexico and Costa Rica will become effective on 1 January 1995. The legislative branches of the two countries must first ratify the treaty, which is already agreed upon in San Jose. Presidents Salinas and Rafael Calderon Fournier are expected to sign it in April, before Calderon hands over office in May. The agreement contemplates tariff benefits in three stages (Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0435 GMT 4 Mar 94)

Banco Union and Banca Cremi signed with the National Financing Association on 3 March an agreement whereby the banks would lower their interest rates on

loans to mini- and small-scale entrepreneurs by 2 percent. (Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0435 GMT 4 Mar 94)

Ignacio Ramos Gutierrez, director general of the Commerce and Industrial Development Secretariat's National Commission for Foreign Investment, has reported foreign investment reached approximately \$15.6 billion in 1993 and \$2.37 billion in January this year alone. A new foreign investment law that complements NAFTA was enacted on 27 December to open to foreign investors approximately 700 fields formerly reserved for Mexicans. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0405 GMT 4 Mar 94)

Gilberto Jimenez, National Council for Foreign Trade president, has reported foreign investments worth \$3.5 billion arrived in the country during the first two months of the year. A sizable portion of the money was invested in agriculture and livestock, basic products, food, automotive, and electricity industries. Most of the investment was made in the Mexican Stock Exchange, however. He has also reported the commercial deficit will continue to steepen due to increased exports. The deficit is expected to reach \$12 billion this year; in addition, exports increased by 17.7 percent over last year's figure. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 4 Mar 94 p 11)

The Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development and the Bank of Mexico have reported trade with other Latin American countries increased by 118.9 percent between 1988 and 1993. They have said during that period regional imports grew by 253.8 percent, while exports rose by 64.6 percent. According to the Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development and the Bank of Mexico, Mexican exports to Latin America totaled \$2.9 billion, which represents 10 percent of total exports. The report concludes the largest trading partners of Mexico are Brazil, Uruguay, and Colombia. (Madrid EFE in Spanish 1700 GMT 7 Mar 94)

The economic slowdown in 1993 had an adverse impact on companies that sell their stock at the Mexican Stock Market (BMV). At the close of last year, 50 percent of the

companies operating at the BMV registered losses. On average the companies operating at the BMV registered a 2.42-percent growth rate. The 215 companies that sell their stock at the BMV increased their assets from 37.4 billion pesos to 41.3 billion pesos, a 10-percent increase. Meanwhile, the sector most affected by the economic slowdown in 1993 was electronics, which fell by 238.44 percent. (Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 7 Mar 94 p 19)

Financial experts have told EL FINANCIERO in the next few months the peso will stabilize and revalue against the dollar. After ruling out the risk of a devaluation, the experts have admitted following a reduction in interest rates the slide rate of the peso has increased. Meanwhile, sources at Moodys Brokers have warned as long as yields remain low and the Stock Market is not competitive, the demand for dollars will grow in border states. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 7 Mar 94 p 10)

Mexicans have purchased \$150-million worth of used cars in U.S. states bordering Mexico, taking advantage of the new decree by the Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development which allows importation of models to 1990. The sale of secondhand cars in cities such as Houston, El Paso, Austin, San Antonio, Del Rio, Eagle Pass, Brownsville, and Laredo has increased by up to 300 percent. It is estimated Mexicans have purchased over 50,000 cars, trucks, and station wagons that are being brought into the country. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 7 Mar 94 p 22)

A report by the Center of Economic Studies of the Private Sector (CEESP) has revealed private investments grew by 2.1 percent in 1993, the lowest growth rate in the last six years. It should be noted private investments grew by 20 percent in 1992, according to the CEESP. The document has revealed in 1993 the Mexican economy grew during the first two quarters, while it decreased during the last half of the year. The document has concluded foreign investments grew by 31 percent last year. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 7 Mar 94 pp 64, 52)

Costa Rica**President-Elect Designates Cabinet Members**

PA0903004894 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1740 GMT
8 Mar 94

[Text] San Jose, 8 Mar (DPA)—Costa Rican President-elect Jose Maria Figueres today called on citizens of that country to tear down "the walls of intolerance and misunderstanding," after announcing the cabinet that will guide his administration, which he will assume on 8 May.

Figueres announced five areas of action, namely economy and commerce, health and social welfare, transportation and infrastructure, foreign policy, and institutional and moral renovation, coordinated by the vice presidents or advisers and collaborators of the future president. The future president insisted his cabinet will work under the concept of teamwork. Figueres stressed his administration will struggle to improve the standards of living of the middle class, affected by a phenomenon of impoverishment, as well as "the sectors that have less."

Regarding economic and commercial matters, the president-elect announced he will work to modernize the country, increase production efficiency, and "intelligently" join the large commercial blocs that are being formed currently throughout the world.

The government team announced by Figueres is characterized by a combination of young professionals and others of great experience in public administration.

The president-elect selected in the 6 February elections insists he will fight neoliberal policies promoted by the current Social Christian administration of President Rafael Angel Calderon. He added he will seek negotiations and "solutions Costa Rican style" with the international financial organizations.

Within this context, Figueres placed the coordination of the economic area in the hands of Carlos Manuel Castillo, current president of the National Liberation Party (PLN), the party that brought him to power. Castillo will also be the executive president of the Central Bank.

With this action, the president-elect intends to "tie" the decisions of the economic cabinet to the principles that in this area the PLN defends, which are of a social democratic orientation.

Economist Fernando Naranjo will be the new foreign minister. According to Figueres, Naranjo will have to study how to reorganize Costa Rican foreign policy to bring it in line with the new foreign policy ground rules and principles.

Figueres created a new ministry, rural development, which will be occupied by Roberto Solorzano. The

president-elect explained that the creation of this ministry responds to a "commitment" with the agriculture sector.

Meanwhile, Figueres designated economist Luis Diego Escalante as the Costa Rican representative for international negotiations. An attorney, Juan Diego Castro, will be the new minister of public security and another attorney, Maureen Clark, will head the Ministry of Government and Police.

The government team that will be installed on 8 May is the following:

Foreign Relations: Fernando Naranjo
Public Security: Juan Diego Castro
Government: Maureen Clark
Culture: Arnoldo Mora
Planning: Leonardo Garnier
Health: Herman Weinstock
Education: Eduardo Doryan
Housing: Edgar Arroyo
Rural Development: Roberto Solorzano
Finance: Fernando Herrero
Economy: Marcos Vargas
Agriculture: Mario Carvajal
Foreign Trade: Jose Rossi
Natural Resources: Rene Castro
Science and Technology: Roberto Robles
Transportation: Bernardo Arce
Presidency: Elias Soley
Information: Flory Rodriguez
Justice: Enrique Castillo
Labor: Farid Ayales
Tourism: Carlos Roesch
Minister Without Portfolio: [blank]
Special Projects: Longino Soto
Regional Coordination: Sergio Quiros

Figueres made this announcement at the National Museum in San Jose, the same place where his father Jose Figueres Ferrer, three-time president and the last great political leader of Costa Rica, abolished the Army 45 years ago after winning an armed confrontation defending clean elections.

The president-elect burst into tears when he held in his right hand the old mallet his late father used in 1949 to tear down a wall symbolizing the elimination of the Armed Forces. At that very moment, Figueres called for understanding, effort, and sacrifice to confront "the difficult challenges" facing his administration.

El Salvador**Government Declines U.S. Donation of Canned Foods**

PA0803203794 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA
in Spanish 7 Mar 94 p 14

[Text] According to information supplied to LA PRENSA GRAFICA by Agriculture and Livestock Minister Antonio

Cabrales, El Salvador has officially declined U.S. donations of canned foods. These donations were guaranteed under Agreement PL-480, which many Salvadoran farmers have criticized, because they believe it dispenses with incentives for national production.

The minister has said the decline is due to food security. "El Salvador had the best corn, bean, and millet [maicillo] harvest in the country's history during 1992," Cabrales has said, adding the agricultural improvement was due to "the government's faith in the social market economy and the elimination of price distortions."

According to the minister, food production in El Salvador had dropped 12 percent at the end of the 1980's, and food imports had increased 60 percent. "For example, we had a deficit of more than 600,000 quintals of beans in 1989, and rice producers had threatened they would not plant, because donations had affected them very much," Cabrales has said.

Within the government's food security program, Cabrales spotlighted the importance of eliminating price controls and closing down the Institute of Supply Regulation (IRA). Likewise, the minister has announced during the four years of the administration, the ministry's size had been reduced from 7,000 employees to 3,500.

According to an August 1993 UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) report, El Salvador is second in Latin America in cereal production per capita. Ecuador holds first place.

Studies on NAFTA Impact on Central America Viewed

PA0903002794 San Salvador *EL DIARIO DE HOY* in Spanish 7 Mar 94 p 8

[Text] Many have argued that NAFTA can threaten the Central American and Caribbean economy, basically for two reasons:

First because Mexico will have greater access to the U.S. market at the expense of the Caribbean. Therefore, Central American and Caribbean exports will be at a disadvantage, particularly with regard to textiles and apparel.

Second, as a result of NAFTA, greater investment will be channeled to Mexico, particularly with regard to the establishment of U.S. assembly plants and textile industries. These will prefer to set up shop in Mexico, not only because labor is cheap, but also because of the proximity of the U.S. market and the advantages NAFTA offers to the investors of the three signatory nations, Canada, the United States, and Mexico.

According to an analysis of NAFTA's impact in Central America, drawn up by Kathleen Horkan that in turn was distributed by the U.S. Embassy's Information and Cultural Service, in the sugar sector, for example, Central America could lose its competitiveness in the medium

term as it will have to compete with Mexico on the U.S. market. Another problem pointed out in the analysis is that Central American sugar exports could face greater restrictions on the Mexican market due to Mexico's promise to protect the levels of sugar exported from the United States.

The textile and apparel sectors that represent one-fourth of the region's exports to the United States will also be adversely affected. Horkan points out that NAFTA will reduce the tariffs in the textile sector for Mexico; thereby threatening Caribbean and Central American competition in exports. "Another problem is that Central America could lose the opportunity of foreign investment in this sector as Mexico will attract greater investment as a result of NAFTA," the analyst states.

Likewise, the Inter-American Institute of Cooperation for Agriculture [IICA] recently published a study on the effects of NAFTA on Central American agricultural exports to the United States. The study concludes that in three specific cases—cucumbers, pineapples, and melons-cantaloupes—there is risk in the short term that the Central American exports will be replaced by Mexican exports as a result of NAFTA.

Nevertheless, the IICA study indicates that 82 percent of the Central American agricultural exports to the United States in 1991 correspond to products for which Mexico currently does not pay import tariffs to the United States. Therefore, more than four-fifths of Central American exports will continue to compete under the same conditions with Mexican products, even after NAFTA's implementation.

The Federation of Private Enterprises of Central America and Panama, an organization that represent the business interests in the region, supports NAFTA. Nevertheless, it believes that "it will produce major detours of investments and trade: investments that would have come to the region, now however these will go to Mexico..."

The regional institution indicates in an analysis that the Caribbean Basin nations would lose because Mexico would have the opportunity to export the same products free of import tariffs.

Tribunal Magistrate Denies Army Use in Elections

PA0803202894 San Salvador *Canal Doce Television* in Spanish 0300 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Report by Gandi Montoya; from the "Up-to-Date" newscast]

[Text] Eduardo Colindres, Christian Democratic Party magistrate to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal [TSE], has denied the accusation by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], adding the Armed Forces will only provide assistance and certain facilities after the 20 March elections are over.

[Begin recording] [Montoya] Magistrate Colindres has denied the TSE wants to include the Armed Forces in an electoral organization on election day as denounced by the FMLN. According to Colindres, the Armed Forces will not be assigned to transport voting supplies or survey roads, but some of its units will provide assistance once the elections are over.

[Colindres] We have told the FMLN we were only planning to use an Air Force helicopter to ship electoral certificates for the vote count.

[Montoya] Colindres has said the Army's participation in the elections will be at a minimum, and, primarily, it will be supervised by other people.

[Colindres] The helicopter will carry only the pilot, the copilot, a representative of the UN Observers to El Salvador, a member of each from the departmental and municipal electoral boards, and a TSE representative who will bring the certificates to the heliport that will be set up in front of the Presidente Hotel.

[Montoya] Colindres believes the FMLN has played dirty by accepting a situation and later denouncing it as a violation of the laws; in this regard, Colindres has said the FMLN's dishonest behavior could be only the result of a propagandistic campaign. [end recording]

World Bank Funds Structural Adjustment Project *PA0803195594*

[Editorial Report] Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish at 2148 GMT on 1 March reported that the Central Reserve Bank announced on 1 March that the World Bank disbursed \$17.5 million in January and \$12.5 million in February to support the government's structural adjustment program.

Guatemala

Government-URNG Peace Talks Continue in Mexico

Army Said Willing To Accept Peace Commission *PA0803190794 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 5 Mar 94 p 2*

[Text] Armed Forces Spokeswoman Major Edith Vargas de Marroquin said yesterday the Army would be willing to accept formation of a peace commission if this decision is made during the peace negotiations being held in Mexico. When asked if the armed institution would accept a resolution they have openly opposed and which has been demanded by several grassroots sectors, Vargas de Marroquin said: "The Army's position is one of respect for whatever the Peace Commission decides." The military officer reiterated the Army does not fear the formation of such a commission, but she reiterated the inconveniences of establishing such a commission,

which have been cited by the armed institution. She said, however: "We will respect the government's decision."

Commission Exceeded Its Functions in El Salvador

Dr. Armando Calderon Sol, Salvadoran Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) presidential candidate, who is visiting Guatemala, has commented on the Truth Commission's role in the neighboring country. The commission has played a very important role, but, unfortunately, it has overstepped its functions and, for example, did not allow FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] commanders to run for public posts in a 10-year period. This, he has said, has closed opportunities for political participation. When asked if he recommends formation of a similar commission in Guatemala, Calderon Sol said: "The political situation here is very different to the Salvadoran one. I cannot make any suggestions in this respect."

Defense Minister Confident of Accord

PA0903022794 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 8 Mar 94 p 3

[Text] Defense Minister Mario Rene Enriquez stated yesterday that the Army is confident of the likelihood of the signing of a human rights agreements in Mexico and expressed his hope that the recent dynamite attack on a bridge on the Atlantic route will not influence the talks.

"I expect the government delegation will adopt some position, which I believe it will relay to the insurgents in Mexico; however, I expect it will not contribute to curtailing the possibility of an agreement," the defense minister added in referring to the issue.

He was very careful when he referred to the peace talks, indicating that in a 10 January agreement, both sides agreed that any statements referring to the talks would be made by UN Moderator Jean Arnault.

"In any case, it should be up to the president or [Presidential Adviser] Hector Rosada, but I would be making a mistake in commenting on the issue. Even if I were aware of what's going on, I would still be missing sufficient details to explain the thing clearly and sincerely. Also, we would not like to create confusion and distrust with respect to the talks," he added.

Nevertheless, Enriquez did refer to statements by Commander Pablo Monsanto of the Rebel Armed Forces [FAR], who remarked on the possibility of an agreement during the talks. Enriquez also alluded to the OAS Human Rights Commission resolution on Guatemala and stated that not appointing a rapporteur is "a real acknowledgement by the international community of the efforts the government is making to ensure respect of fundamental rights."

The defense minister acknowledged that in this respect there are still problems, but that efforts have been made and now it is impossible to say that there is a policy or

systematic intent to violate fundamental human rights, and that is why the Geneva resolution was something to be happy about.

He also commented on recent statements by adviser Monica Pinto and stated that "the Army influences political stability because that has always been our intention, and there is evidence of that."

No Conditions for State of Exception

In referring to a possible state of exception in Guatemala, the general indicated that so far conditions are not suitable for such a measure although if it is ordered, the Armed Forces will obey what corresponds, in accordance with the determined degree.

He indicated that "it is a decision that corresponds to the president and the Legislative Branch, we can only receive orders according to the degree that is decided. If the decision is made, well, there are degrees of prevention, calamity, war, and siege."

On the other hand, he explained that the boats seen from the Presidential Palace are some of the four boats assigned to the Pacific and Atlantic naval bases. He, however, denied the boats were armed. He did not explain the cost of the boats, but did say that they were 27-foot, "Vigilant"-type speed boats to be used in counternarcotics, rescue, and other Navy operations. The defense minister concluded by stating that the "Navy is poorly equipped because it has not received support for the past 20 years. Some equipment was purchased during the [Jorge] Serrano administration, but Ramiro de Leon Carpio has so far not even purchased a canoe."

[Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish on 8 March carries on page 3 a 240-word report in which Defense Minister Mario Rene Enriquez "did not rule out the possibility that the urban rebel commando groups may be the authors of the attack that completely destroyed the foundations of the [San Juan River] bridge, located 20 km from Guatemala City. He added this is a worrisome situation."]

Talks End Without Agreement

PA0903035594 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
2044 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Mexico City, 8 Mar (NOTIMEX)—UN Representative Jean Arnault said here that the Guatemalan Government and guerrillas today ended a new round of talks without reaching definite agreements, but after achieving significant headway. In a news conference the UN representative announced that the next round of talks is slated for 23-27 March in Mexico City.

He explained that the two topics discussed in this round were the approval of the negotiations calendar on pending topics from the general agenda and the topic of human rights. Arnault also remarked that it was not

possible to complete the topics in these negotiations in view that by consensus all sides agreed that a new round of talks was necessary.

The government representatives and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) leadership had planned to complete talks by Monday—talks which seek an end to the war that has afflicted Guatemala for more than 30 years.

Retired Army Men Implicated in Bridge Attack

PA0903020494 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 8 Mar 94 p 3

[Article by PRENSA LIBRE special correspondent Henry Hernandez Marroquin]

[Text] Yesterday, Pablo Monsanto, commander of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG), said that retired Generals Jose Luis Quilo Ayuso, Francisco Ortega Menaldo, and Roberto Perussina might be responsible for Sunday's dynamite attack on the San Juan River bridge, located at kilometer 20 on the Atlantic coast highway.

Monsanto denied that the URNG was responsible for the explosion, adding that the URNG has no men in the area and therefore could not participate in that terrorist attack. The rebel commander said that, in an attack of this type, one cannot rule out the participation of criminal groups who seek to stop the peace dialogue, and they might be linked to the retired military men who do not want to see an end to the 33 years of warlike conflict in Guatemala.

For a long time now, Monsanto added, the previously mentioned military men have caused divisions in the Army, and therefore, one cannot ignore their interest in the suspension of peace talks between the URNG and the government. Monsanto referred to the case of Quilo Ayuso, who during his farewell ceremony at the Polytechnic Institute pointed out there was division among the military forces.

Union Leaders Take 100 Hostage, Demand Wage Hikes

PA0803235294 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish
2048 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Guatemala City, 8 Mar (NOTIMEX)—Today, an official source reported that union leaders took hostage approximately 100 Quetzaltenango public office employees. The union leaders are demanding wage increases. The Quetzaltenango state employees warned they will only leave the offices when they are given the 40-percent wage increase they demanded from the government five weeks ago.

The National Police reported that approximately 800 demonstrators held a protest and later seized the governor's headquarters and the Quetzaltenango municipality

with more than 100 employees. Public security authorities said police surveillance will be increased in the coming hours, and they will find a legal way to evacuate the municipality and the state governor's office.

Union leader Oswaldo Squich declared that public employees await the arrival of President Ramiro de Leon Carpio's representative to negotiate. The demonstrators coordinated their actions with the leaders of the National Federation of State Workers Unions, who are scheduled to meet with government representatives.

The government employees union leaders temporarily seized the National Palace, headquarters of the Guatemalan Government, a few days ago, over the same conflict. Monday, more than 30,000 professors joined the protest movement.

Nicaragua

Pallais: San Juan River Threat 'Exaggerated'

PA0803142994 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
7 Mar 94 p 12

[Report by David Gutierrez Lopez]

[Text] Acting Foreign Minister Jose Pallais asserted that Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon's announcement on the possibility of taking Nicaragua to the International Court of Justice at The Hague for its immigration controls in its sovereign San Juan River area are "exaggerated."

Pallais, in statements made on the phone from his house in Leon, said: "I do not see the need to resort to The Hague to resolve matters which we, as friendly countries, can discuss ourselves." The Nicaraguan Government informed Costa Rican authorities that it "would implement immigration controls on tourism activities carried out on that river" and would charge a \$5 fee for each person who used the river for tourism. "Nicaragua is free to implement the measures it feels necessary on its territory, and Costa Rica has to respect our decisions," Pallais underscored.

The Costa Rican president told the Costa Rican newspaper LA REPUBLICA over the weekend that he did not agree with the measures implemented by Nicaragua because the Canas-Jerez Treaty established free transit on the San Juan without any type of preference. Calderon requested his foreign minister, Bernd Niehaus, to establish immediate negotiations with Nicaraguan authorities. "If an agreement is not reached, the future Costa Rican administration—headed by Jose Figueres—will have to present the case at the International Court of Justice, although we expect that will not be necessary," he said.

Pallais reaffirmed Nicaragua's right to safeguard its sovereignty over the San Juan River as established in the Canas-Jerez Treaty signed last century. He said the treaty stipulates that Costa Ricans cannot navigate more

than three miles of the river, much less navigate up to Nicaragua Lake, which is where Costa Ricans go in a clear violation of our sovereignty.

3-80 Northern Front Issues Communique on RN Unity

PA0903044594 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish
2300 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Communique issued by the 3-80 Northern Front in Caulatu, Quiulali, Nueva Segovia Department on 6 March; from the "Five O'Clock Sharp" newscast]

[Text] After the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] General Command and the 3-80 Northern Front staff met in Caulatu, Quiulali Municipality, Nueva Segovia Department, to assess the situation of the RN demobilization and to accomplish complete RN unity, the following was considered:

1. The 3-80 Northern Front is on its way to demobilization and being reincorporated into the country's social and civic life.
2. All RN leaders should be concerned about the desperate plight of the RN demobilized.
3. At this very moment, our people are conducting a civic protest through a hunger strike at the following radio stations: Radio Corporacion, El Pensamiento, and Radio Catolica. The government, however, has given no indications of desiring to resolve this situation.

Therefore, we have decided the following:

1. We unconditionally support the fair demands of our brothers on a hunger strike.
2. We strongly condemn the government's failure to give any serious indications of willingness to talk with the strikers' negotiating commission, a failure that could worsen the situation or lead to the death of one of the strikers for lack of food.
3. The 3-80 Northern Front has been incorporated into the RN Higher Council, thus proclaiming tight RN unity.

[Issued] Caulatu, Quiulali, Nueva Segovia Department, at 1730 on 6 March 1994.

[Signed] Jose Angel Talavera, alias Commander Chacal, chief of the 3-80 Northern Front staff; Alejandro Alcantara Sosa, alias Commander Musul, Staff G-2; Jose Carvajal Espinales, alias Commander Martin, chief of operations; Fremio Altamirano, alias Commander Jimmy Leo, RN national president; Enrique Quinones, alias Commander Josue, RN national vice president; Tomas David Hernandez, alias Commander David, RN national secretary; Julio Cesar Blandon, alias Commander Caliban, secretary for agrarian affairs; Reynaldo Espinales Aguilera, alias Commander Holman, member of the Higher Council; Pablo Abrena Escobeda, alias Commander Colorado, member of the Higher Council.

Roundup of Economic Developments

PA0803155394

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on Nicaraguan economic developments monitored through 8 March.

Nicaragua will receive donations from the Danish Government for approximately \$100 million during the period 1994-1998, Foreign Cooperation Minister Erwin Kruger announced after signing a cooperation agreement with the Danish deputy cooperation minister. (Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 3 Mar 94)

The International Fund for Agricultural Development decided on 4 March to grant Nicaragua a loan for \$11.4 million to finance a project to help small-scale producers in Segovia's dry tropical region and in the northeast of the country. Nicaragua will have 50 years to pay back the loan at an annual interest rate of 1 percent. In addition, the country will have a 10-year grace period. (Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Mar 94)

Panama

Deputy Minister: DEA Not Violating Sovereignty

PA0803154394 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Mar 94 p 3

[Report by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Carlos Cordero has reported that the Panamanian Government is cooperating with the DEA in the investigation of crimes related to drug trafficking.

The DEA dismantled a drug trafficking ring that laundered more than \$10 million and was made up of Panamanian and Colombian lawyers, accountants, and businessmen. Cordero said that there is cooperation with DEA authorities to investigate drug related crimes. The diplomat said that he agrees with acting Attorney General Bolivar Davalos on the rules for this cooperation and added that the Foreign Relations Ministry will collaborate in this regard.

Cordero said that DEA participation in investigations related to drug trafficking do not violate the country's sovereignty as long as Panama grants authorization as a sovereign country, which it is.

The investigations indicate that distributors in this network introduced large amounts of cocaine into the United States from Colombia and Panama. The deputy foreign minister pointed out that DEA agents no longer participate in searches or arrests in Panama, leaving these tasks to Panamanian authorities.

PRD Legislator Alleges Presence of Mideast 'Terrorists'

PA0803163594 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 8 Mar 94 p 1

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] Opposition spokesmen said yesterday alleged Middle Eastern terrorists are in Panama to execute attacks during the weeks before the 8 May general elections.

Mario Rognoni, PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] legislator, said his party has reports "radical" elements have been making contacts with those foreigners so they will execute violent actions.

According to Rognoni, that group of Middle Eastern individuals reportedly operates from a residence in San Francisco corregimiento.

The opposition legislator said PRD presidential candidate Ernesto Perez Balladares has been informed of the situation, but he does not plan to decrease his campaign visits.

Mario Rognoni said the intelligence team that works with Perez Balladares gathered the reports about the presence of Middle Eastern extremists in Panama.

According to Rognoni, all the parties that have nominated presidential candidates have on their teams people who in one way or another undertake intelligence tasks.

Meanwhile, Camilo Brenes, Christian Democratic Party legislator, reiterated yesterday Bocas del Toro Province is one of the points used for arms trafficking.

Brenes said the Changuinola area on the border with Costa Rica was used in the past to bring in trailer trucks loaded with weapons from Central American countries.

Camilo Brenes said he does not have information on the hiring of Middle Eastern extremists, but he said anything is possible.

Months prior to the U.S. invasion of Panama several officers of the then Defense Forces traveled to Middle Eastern countries to seek military support to confront the North Americans.

They were looking for surface-to-air missiles. One of those in charge of that mission was Captain Asuncion Gaitan, then chief of General Manuel Antonio Noriega's bodyguards. It is unknown whether he was able to obtain these weapons.

A short time ago, Roberto Troncoso, head of the Panamanian Human Rights Committee (CPDH), warned about the possibility of death squads operating in Panama.

On that occasion, the authorities denied they had reports on this and urged the CPDH to provide any information in this regard.

PRD Requests Investigation of Intimidation Charges

PA0903043394 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Mar 94

[From the "RPC Television News" newscast]

[Text] The Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD] has formally requested that the Justice and Peace Commission investigate the participation of PRD party members in violent actions last weekend, as charged by the Arnulfist Party and the Christian Democratic Party.

A PRD communique stressed it will respect and accept the commission's decision in this respect. The PRD document added that its Honor and Discipline Commission will be instructed to impose the corresponding penalties if any PRD party member is found to be responsible for the reported events.

The PRD called on all its members to maintain their composure and act strictly in accordance with noble goals and Santa Maria La Antigua's ethical electoral commitments.

Poll Shows Perez Balladares Ahead

PA0803140094 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Mar 94

[From the "RPC Television News" newscast]

[Text] Today's most recent CID-Gallup poll places Ernesto Perez Balladares, PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] presidential candidate, at the head of voters' preferences. He is followed by Ruben Dario Carles and Mireya Moscoso de Gruber.

Perez Balladares continues to lead electoral preferences, according to the latest poll by the international consulting firm CID-Gallup in an exclusive for RPC Radio and Television. This is the most recent nationwide CID-Gallup poll conducted between 26 February and 3 March. A total of 1,218 Panamanians over 18 years of age were polled.

Ruben Dario Carles follows Ernesto Perez Balladares, and progovernment candidate Mireya Moscoso de Gruber is in third place. Ruben Blades ranks fourth, Christian Democrat Eduardo Vallarino fifth, and Samuel Lewis Galindo and Jose Salvador Munoz are sixth.

Of the total number of people polled by CID-Gallup, 33 percent favored Ernesto Perez Balladares, 20.4 percent favored Ruben Dario Carles, 12.5 percent favored Mireya Moscoso de Gruber, 10.4 percent favored Ruben Blades, 3.1 percent favored Eduardo Vallarino, and 1 percent favored Samuel Lewis Galindo; in the meantime, 19.3 percent are undecided.

The poll also revealed seven out of 10 Panamanians responded they will probably vote in the 8 May elections, according to the CID-Gallup poll.

Ernesto Perez Balladares and Ruben Dario Carles also monopolize the negative votes, inasmuch as the people polled claim these are the two candidates for which the majority would not vote for [sentence as heard]. As this chart shows, Perez Balladares has 27 percent while Ruben Dario Carles has 26 percent.

The same CID-Gallup poll discloses 60 days from the elections the PRD is the party with the most followers. Twenty-nine percent support the Ruben Dario Carles coalition; Molirena [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement], Morena [National Renewal Movement], and Civic Renewal Party receive the support of 16.1 percent, while the Arnulfista Party receives 11.8 percent. Within the next few days, we will report on other important results of the most recent CID-Gallup poll in the country.

Russian Company To Attend Expocomer Trade Fair

PA0803175094

[Editorial Report] Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish on 1 March on page 11a reported that Gennadiy Y. Knyazev, Nika Trading International general manager, said his company will participate in Panama's Expocomer '94 commercial fair because Russian investors are interested in expanding their trade relations with Panama and using this country as an import and export center. He added he wants to draw the attention of exporters from Panama and other Latin American countries to the market opportunities Russia offers.

Argentina

Falkland Oil Exploration Cooperation Sought

PY0803222994 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish
7 Mar 94 p 4,5

[Report by Daniel Santoro]

[Text] Reliable Foreign Ministry sources told CLARIN yesterday that, during May, Argentina and Great Britain will resume negotiations on the possibility of some form of cooperation for oil exploration and exploitation in the Malvinas Island coastal waters. The Kelpers are scheduled to begin the process at the end of the year, with or without Argentina's approval.

The date for reopening the negotiations (which have been frozen since 1992) was agreed between Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella and his British counterpart Douglas Hurd during a meeting in London on 3 March. Negotiations will be carried out within the so-called Argentine-British High-Level Group which has been inactive since negotiations failed in 1992.

Di Tella was scheduled to make a private visit to London this coming weekend, but he brought the date forward to 10 March despite the fact that President Carlos Menem was still in Spain. His haste to meet with Hurd was reportedly due to the fact that the meeting was going to take place before this month, but he still did not have British approval, which was only granted on 3 March.

Di Tella and Hurd also agreed to negotiate through diplomatic channels during the time remaining before the meeting—which must be carried out in Buenos Aires—in order to formulate a basis for a prior agreement to guarantee some positive results at the key meeting.

One of the hurdles—beside the conflict over sovereignty that is being kept under the framework of the so-called protective "umbrella"—is to define the reaches of the term cooperation.

—So far, although it is not a definitive answer, Great Britain understands that the term only supposes the exchange of information and the willingness to act jointly to protect the environment.

—Argentina, however, thinks that the term supposes participation in oil exploration and exploitation within the area controlled by the British.

During the London meeting Di Tella mentioned a topic that is indirectly related to the Malvinas Islands. He mentioned to Hurd "Argentina's concern" over Great Britain's increasing political and military relations with Chile.

The Argentine foreign minister mentioned the one-week visit future Chilean Defense Minister Perez Yoma is scheduled to make to London and former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's visit to Chile, among other things.

Hurd's answer was that Perez Yoma was invited before he was named minister and that Thatcher is no longer a member of the British Government.

Hurd affirmed that London does not want to drive any wedge between Argentina and Chile; on the contrary, it is interested in good relations between the two Latin American countries.

The Chilean question was only a side issue of the meeting's central topic: Oil. Di Tella knows that the issue will be essential for the success or failure of his Malvinas policy.

The Kelpers are ready to call for bids on the licenses to begin exploring and exploiting for oil by the end of the year, if negotiations in May fail.

This is why leading Foreign Ministry officials are thinking of discussing the issue with U.S. Vice President Al Gore when he visits Buenos Aires at the end of the month, as CLARIN announced on 2 March.

What diplomats seem not to have been taken into account is that Gore supports ecologist concepts which oppose all "off-shore" drilling, due to their negative effects on the environment. In any case, to play the North American game now seems premature, unless you believe that the May negotiation will not succeed due to the distance separating the two parties.

Intelligence Head Meets UK Intelligence Chiefs

PY0803230594 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish
7 Mar 94 p 5

[Text] Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella was not the only Argentine official to leave the presidential delegation in Spain to travel to London: Employing the subtlety required by his position, SIDE [State Intelligence Secretariat] Chief Hugo Anzorreguy also boarded a plane for London Heathrow Airport.

Once in London, Anzorreguy contacted the British intelligence chiefs. The gesture would have been nothing more than a protocol issue had this not been the first such contact since the South Atlantic War in 1982.

The gradual thawing of Argentine-British relations, which was crowned by the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries almost four years ago, had not occurred between the two countries' intelligence organizations.

Military and police officers, however, did make contact (when charges of alleged executions after the Longdon Hill battle were being investigated), while Argentine and British officers and NCOs who participate in the UN peace forces did fraternize.

Enthusiasm Over Brazilian Economic Plan Viewed
PY0803233394

[Editorial Report] Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish on 7 March publishes, on pages 18 and 19, a 1,200-word article about the "enthusiastic reaction" by the Argentine Economy Ministry to the Brazilian economic program and to the meeting between Brazilian Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso and Foreign Minister Celso Amorim with Argentine counterparts Guido Di Tella and Domingo Cavallo in Buenos Aires on 9 March.

The article also comments on how Argentina will profit if the Brazilian economy becomes stable and the Brazilian level of consumption increases. It also comments on the political meaning of the success of the economic program. The article states that Minister Cardoso will become a potential presidential candidate for the October elections and run against leftist leader Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

The article quotes the positive reactions of several current and former Argentine officials to the plan, stating that they believe "the effects of this stabilization will become visible in six months." It concludes by stating that conservative Brazilians are seeking an "anti-Lula candidate" and that if his plan proves successful, Fernando Henrique Cardoso will be an "excellent" presidential candidate.

Police Arrest Spanish Drug Trafficker

PY0903025594 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2137 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 8 Mar (NA)—Personnel of the Argentine Federal Police Interpol Department today arrested a notorious international drug trafficker who was on the Spanish drug enforcement authorities' most wanted list.

The criminal is 28-year-old Tomas Moran who, after escaping from Spain, clandestinely entered Argentine territory in December 1993 to seek sanctuary in our country.

After a thorough investigation, Interpol Buenos Aires located Moran at a rehabilitation center for drug addicts in Buenos Aires Province.

Moran carried out his unlawful activities in the fashionable resorts of Ibiza and Formentera on the Spanish Mediterranean coast.

Moran is being held in custody at Interpol quarters awaiting a decision by the Argentine courts about his extradition to Spain.

Bolivia**DEA 'Human Rights Violations' Case Being Heard**

PY0803184294 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] The Human Rights Committee is investigating the alleged torture of people arrested on drug trafficking charges. Here is Mario Espinosa's report:

[Begin recording] [Espinosa] Drug trafficking continues to be of paramount importance here in Bolivia, and particularly in Congress. Five people who were arrested in Chonchocorro have visited the Human Rights Committee office. They are testifying in the case of the DEA safe houses, and what they call the constant human rights violations by DEA agents. This is why policemen can now be seen at Congress.

The Human Rights Committee has several reasons for beginning this investigation: One originated in the United States, where a communique reports that human rights violations are being committed under the guise of the antinarcotics struggle.

Outside the committee's office, people were saying the arrested people were giving detailed reports of the torture sessions they endured at the DEA safe houses.

This was confirmed by Juan del Granado, president of the Chamber of Deputies Human Rights Committee:

[Granado] We will continue the investigations to prove or disprove charges that have been made public and which we received today. These are the starting point for the investigation. We are concerned about this situation because we have repeatedly received charges that Special Antinarcotics Force, FELCN, agents are torturing Bolivian citizens under the guise of judicial police investigations. If this is the case, the legislative branch will adopt drastic measures.

[Espinosa] Juan del Granado clearly said it: We cannot accept that one crime should be used to fight other crimes. If the charges are proven there will be sanctions. [end recording]

President Views Clashes, Compliance With Law 1008

PY0803200094 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada has also commented on the clashes that occurred in Chapare. During a news conference, the president commented on the drug trafficking issue. He said Bolivia and his administration are coexisting with a time bomb because Law 1008 obliges the government to eradicate 1 hectare of coca for every cocaine maceration pit that is found. He said this is the cause of the problems.

[Begin Sanchez de Lozada recording] This causes the problem: We have been finding large production centers

of cocaine base, which is purchased by the main cocaine producers who transform this base into cocaine. This concerns us. [end recording]

Asked if his administration will defend coca production, he said:

[Begin Sanchez de Lozada recording] Of course we will defend it. Coca is part of our society. It is a consumer product, but we cannot protect coca production in the Chapare region where it is grown exclusively for drug production, for cocaine production. You know very well that if you offer Chapare coca leaves to miners, they will refuse to chew them. Miners and peasants only chew coca grown in Yungas. This, however, is no reason to simply eradicate this coca and fill our country with violence. We must find solutions to this problem and these solutions can only be found through dialogue. Pressure from abroad is great and domestic damage is also great. We cannot forget that Bolivia is already beginning to have (?addicts) and drug consumption problems. Cocaine base is a very bad drug. [end recording]

Peasant Leader Urges Prefect To End Coca Eradication

PY0903035394 Cochabamba LOS TIEMPOS in Spanish 20 Feb 94 p A5

[Text] Peasant leader Evo Morales of the Chapare coca growing region has made an appeal to the Cochabamba prefect because of the peasants' uncertainty and desperation in face of the government plans to reduce coca plantations by force.

He said: "I have great admiration for the prefect. I believe he enjoys great sympathy not only among the coca growers but also among the people of Cochabamba, and his own party. This is why I would like to ask him to implore to his son (director of the Agricultural Reconversion Directorate) to prevent the suffering of coca growers by ordering the suspension of the mandatory coca reduction."

Less than three weeks ago the son of the prefect, whose name is also German Lema like his father, took over the Agricultural Reconversion Directorate which has the responsibility of implementing the coca eradication policy throughout the country.

Morales said he made the appeal with the understanding that the first political authority of Cochabamba, due to his great humanitarian feelings, could intercede and "even order the suspension of the coca eradication plan because this would be an instruction not only from a father but from the prefect."

The coca growers believe the government pretext for reducing coca plantations is exaggerated and responds to pressure from U.S. organizations interested in eliminating coca.

He said: "The government knows that the Chapare region is a zone highly influenced by drug trafficking.

The government knows this well, therefore the justifications for reducing coca are not solid and awaken greater susceptibility on the credibility of the government operations." [sentence as published]

The peasants of the Chapare region are afraid and they do not want to leave their land to preserve their coca plantations which, according to several governments, represent the basis of the national economy.

Morales, who is going to Lima to attend an international meeting of peasants, said he will meet with Nobel Peace Prize winner Rigoberta Menchu to report the government plans, and to ask her to send a letter to the president asking him to stop the coca reduction project.

Brazil

Venezuelan Ties 'Reactivated' After 150 Years

PY0803201194 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 7 Mar 94 p 3

[Article by Maria Helena Tachinardi]

[Text] Brazil and Venezuela have reactivated their cooperation activities, thus overcoming a period of tensions that characterized the coexistence of these two countries for almost 150 years. At the conclusion of the visit paid by Brazilian President Itamar Franco to his Venezuelan counterpart Rafael Caldera, the importance of the meeting was underlined by the level of the Brazilian ministers who also came to La Guaira, that is, the heads of five important ministries in the foreign affairs field: the industry and commerce, mines and energy, foreign affairs, environment, and justice ministers.

The two presidents issued a joint communique creating a high-level binational commission that will be in charge of stepping up cooperation in the border areas. The commission will be headed by the foreign ministers, and will include all the sectors of the Brazilian and Venezuelan economy.

To mark the meeting the presidents signed a protocol which is to be added to the 1977 friendship and cooperation agreement between the two countries. Caldera stated emphatically: "What happened in the Amazon jungle a few months ago (the murder of Yanomami Indians) helped us open our eyes, and made us aware of the need to harmonize our policies and join efforts to attend to this vast Amazon region, which has great natural resources."

The visit was also commented on by Alberto Poletto, president of the Venezuelan Foreign Trade Institute. In his opinion, the meeting contributed to increased bilateral commercial relations.

Trade between Venezuela and Brazil amounts to approximately \$800 million, with a \$200 million balance in Brazil's favor.

A partial agreement negotiated in 1991, by which Brazil granted Venezuela preferential taxes for 600 new items, is currently in force. Venezuela has granted Brazil preferential taxes for 300 new products. Venezuela purchases 37 percent of what it purchases from ALADI [Latin American Integration Association] member countries in Brazil.

During the meeting the presidents raised several international issues, such as:

- President Itamar Franco said that Mercosur [Common Market of the South] can coexist with NAFTA or with the Andean Pact.
- Regarding the candidates for OAS secretary general, Franco commented that "Brazil received a request, which we are assessing, that this post be occupied by the president of a certain Republic. We have discussed the issue with the Colombian Foreign Ministry."

Brazil has already announced its support for Colombian President Cesar Gaviria. The Venezuelan president said that Venezuela supports its Foreign Minister Burelli Rivas.

- Regarding Argentina's purchase of fighter bombers from the United States, Franco asserted that Brazil does not interfere in other countries' policies, and that its policy is one that seeks peace. Caldera noted that Venezuela's stance is similar to Brazil's. He does not believe there is an ongoing arms race in Latin America, nor that the United States wants to promote one.

President Promulgates Four-Party Nuclear Accord

PY0703211094 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 2 Mar 94 p 16

[Article by Mario Helena Tachinardi]

[Text] On 25 February, President Itamar Franco promulgated the all-encompassing nuclear safeguard agreement signed in December 1991 by Brazil, Argentina, the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control (ABACC), and the International Atomic Energy Agency (AIEA). The decree's single paragraph, signed by Franco, reads: "Any modifications to the subsidiary agreements and acts that may entail the revision of this agreement, as well as any acts that, according to the terms of Article No. 49, clause No. 1, of the federal Constitution, may entail demands or burdensome commitments on the national economy will be subject to the approval of the national Congress."

This paragraph was included at the request of Senator Dirceu Carneiro (PSDB-SC [Brazilian Social Democracy Party-Santa Catarina]), who coordinated the agreement.

The agreement's main purpose is that the member states "accept the application of safeguards for all nuclear material used in all nuclear activities carried out within their respective territory, under their jurisdiction or their control at any site, with the sole purpose of assuring that the material not be used to produce nuclear weapons or other explosive nuclear devices."

The agreement contains 98 articles and refers to the implementation of safeguards, the supply of information to the agency, inspectors' privileges and immunity, a common accounting and control system for nuclear material, subsidiary agreements, and the scope of inspections, among other issues.

As for the subsidiary agreements, the most polemic subject during the agreement's debate by the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, the agreement states: "Considering the accounting and control system, the ABACC, the interested member states, and the agency will reach detailed subsidiary agreements that will allow the agency to efficiently fulfill its duties specified in the current agreement."

Cardoso Electoral Alliance Possibilities Viewed

PY0803200794 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 6 Mar 94 p 2

[From the "Political Panorama" column by Tereza Cruvinel]

[Text] Leaving the Finance Ministry and the administration of the economic plan is no longer a problem for the candidacy of Fernando Henrique Cardoso. Everyone seems to agree on this. When Cardoso promises to reflect on the subject before deciding (even if he has already done so), he and his allies are demonstrating that they are now mainly concerned over political and electoral subjects pertaining his candidacy.

The first variable is the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party]. Cautious PSDB leader Jose Serra has said that two thirds of the party want Cardoso to be a candidate. On 8 March, during a meeting with PSDB bloc members, Cardoso will hear claims in favor of his candidacy. But it is one thing to run as an autonomous candidate, and something else to discuss an alliance with other parties. That is what holds back the remaining third of the PSDB.

If on the one hand the policy of alliances disturbs the PSDB, on the other Cardoso and the PSDB leaders know that the power of his candidacy is directly related to his ability to obtain support. The non-orthodox wing of the Workers Party [PT] has said that Lula [PT leader Luis Inacio da Silva] is desperate because he is unable to make more alliances. Cardoso rules out any alliance with the left. The field that lies before him ranges from the center to the right, and that is where the dilemmas begin.

According to one PSDB leader, a possible alliance with the PFL [Liberal Front Party] should be evaluated with extreme care. If on the one hand an alliance will bring PSDB electoral advantages—like a presence in north-eastern Brazil and heavyweight allies, beside the approval of the elites—on the other hand it will chase away Bahia politicians like Waldir Pires, who would never stand on the platform beside [Bahia Governor and PFL leader] Antonio Carlos Magalhaes. But the problem

not only lies in Bahia. In Santa Catarina, PSDB candidate for governor Jaison Barreto is endorsed by the PT, his candidacy was launched by Lula, and he is running against PFL President Jorge Bornhausen. But the greatest problem is in Sao Paulo where [PSDB Senator] Mario Covas cannot be simply trampled into the dirt.

PSDB leaders do not overlook the fact that Cardoso is not a purebred PSDB member, and as such he could obtain broader support than just from the PFL. It would not be very troublesome for the PP [Popular Party] of Alvaro Dias to join the PSDB (once the disagreements in Parana State between Dias and PSDB Senator Jose Richa are overcome). To further stress the center-right leaning, it would be essential to obtain the support of the PMDB [Brazilian Social Democratic Party] wing that will not support Orestes Quercia if he wins the party convention. PMDB dissidents, especially those from Rio Grande do Sul—whose spokesman is [PMDB Senator] Pedro Simon—dislike the idea of a possible coalition with the PFL. Their alternative, for regional considerations, is to support the PDT [Democratic Labor Party].

All this must be considered and discussed during the next three weeks.

Editorial Views Alternatives if Cardoso Leaves Post

PY0403135694 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 2 Mar 94 p A3

[Editorial from the "Notes and Information" page: "To Serve the Country Until the End"]

[Text] While the stock exchanges reflected a bull market following the announcement of the economic plan's new stage, another kind of speculation took place in Brasilia about who could replace Finance and Economy Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso in his post. The point is that since it is thought that Cardoso will be nominated as a presidential candidate by his party, it is reasonable to begin speculating on who will administer the economic plan. The difference between the stock exchanges and the speculations in Brasilia is that in the former ones investors are concerned with gaining or losing cruzeiros based on real assets; while in the latter case the players are making speculations without knowing the balance that the auditor of "Brazil company" (that is, the president of the Republic) will present, and exerting pressure on Mr. Itamar Franco, through daring bids, to make him accept either this or that candidate who appeals most to the new-style technocrats or the new-generation politicians. As always, Brasilia does not live in the real world. While the politicians debate whether a minister is leaving to become a candidate, they forget that the economic plan's success lies mainly in the credibility given to it by the economic agents. It is evident that in the past few months such credibility was not given to the economic team as a whole, but to the finance minister. We are not trying to discredit the university professors that counsel Minister Cardoso, but the truth cannot be

hidden. There is only one truth: After defeating resistance inside and outside the administration, after scoring accomplishments and consenting to minor defeats on several fronts, Cardoso is the indicated person to administer the economic plan, which is a much more difficult task than creating it because he will have to confront the labor unions, the price increases that can be considered sabotage, the temptation to call on the "old lady" (Sunab [National Supply Superintendency]) to control whether prices are within the average increases of the previous four months or if there have been abusive hikes, and those who think it is much easier to freeze prices than to live with the market fluctuations.

Even understanding that the party leaders keep an eye on the presidential race, we cannot forget that the defense of the economic plan's rational part will allow the presidential race—which has great political and social meaning—to develop normally. A failure of the economic plan will affect the electoral atmosphere in such a way that the election campaign will become a real "battle" (in the past, candidates simply ran for elections); a success in the economic plan, even if partial, will make the attacks the candidates will throw at each other at least civilized, as expected by the public. A failure will mainly favor those who fish in troubled waters, while a success will favor those who defend democratic normalcy.

Speculations about who will replace the finance minister only help wear out the economic plan. How many people used to ironically say before Provisional Measure No. 434 was published that the plan would be a great election campaign? How many politicians disapproved the provisional measure in case Minister Cardoso left his post, called by the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] to run against Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva? However, if the minister leaves his post to become a presidential candidate, the public will believe the economic plan had electoral purposes; consequently, it will be easy to discredit the economic plan, something that will benefit a few speculators in the stock exchanges or in other alternative circles like in the campaign to discredit the regime. To suppose that the execution of the economic plan will be the same without Minister Cardoso is to be extremely naive. For months Minister Cardoso worked hard on the most difficult part of his task, which was to convince President Itamar Franco not to break contracts or impose a price freeze. This was possible thanks only to the personality of Minister Cardoso and his undeniable influence on the chief of state. Whoever was to replace the finance minister, no matter how much political support he may have, would have to go through the daily ordeal of first convincing his aides and then the president himself to impose his views, without being sure of having the same prestige as his predecessor. Once outside the government, it will be useless for Fernando Henrique Cardoso to try to influence President Itamar Franco or his Juiz de Fora intimate circle. Whoever goes outside, remains outside. When accepting President Itamar Franco's invitation to become finance minister, Fernando Henrique Cardoso knew he made a choice

deep down: to postpone his personal political plans, replacing them with the valuable task of re-establishing the country's confidence in its currency. Now, he must stick with this task until the end, under the penalty of becoming another former finance minister who gives his opinion about his successors' savior economic plans in the future.

PT Leader Vows To Fight To End Cuban Blockade

PY0903024794 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2337 GMT
8 Mar 94

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 8 Mar (EFE)—Luis Inacio "Lula" da Silva, the Brazilian socialist leader who is hoping to be elected president of his country in the 3 October elections, today stated that if he wins the elections he will fight to put an end to the trade blockade imposed on Cuba.

Lula, a 48-year-old lathe operator and union leader, told foreign correspondents in a news conference that "if we win the presidential elections, we will fight hard to promote respect for Cuba and to help it overcome the blockade that is isolating it from the rest of the world."

Endorsing the Cuban people's right to resolve their difficult economic and political problems on their own, Lula said: "The Cubans have the right to decide their future free from foreign interference."

Lula, who for one year has enjoyed the preference of 30 percent of the voters in opinion polls, stated that he would like to see Cuba experience a political opening. He made it clear, however, that he would refrain from making any proposal to this effect out of respect for the Cuban people's independence.

Lula, who is the leader of the Workers Party (PT), said: "Although I would like to see elections and a political opening in Cuba, I am respectful of the free determination of the Cuban people."

"My criticism of Fidel (Castro) is a respectful one addressed to a comrade who, because of external pressure, has been unable to prove that his system can work," Lula said.

The PT is a party consisting of sectors ranging from ultraleftist to social democratic moderate factions. The PT leader acknowledges that since the collapse of the Berlin Wall, socialism is no longer seeking to put an end to capitalism.

Lula Da Silva Changes Electoral Strategy

PY0803214394 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO
PAULO in Portuguese 7 Mar 94 p A5

[Article by Lucia Helena Gazzola]

[Text] The PT [Workers Party] has decided to change its electoral strategy in light of the possible presidential

candidacy of Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso. Following a meeting that lasted all weekend, the party national board yesterday released three documents attacking the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party], which had been a desirable ally in the past. The three documents are: A strongly worded note that excludes Cardoso's ticket from the PT policy of alliances; an open letter to PSDB grassroots and voters asking for support for Luis Inacio Lula da Silva's candidacy; and a note criticizing the economic plan.

The note that excludes the PSDB from the list of possible allies, which was approved by a 35-to-9 vote, charges the PSDB leadership with "opposing PSDB democratic demands, becoming a group allied with conservative sectors, and becoming a political alternative to sponsor an anti-Lula candidate."

The open letter addressed to PSDB grassroots follows the same line. It states: "Despite our efforts, the main PSDB leaders have approached the perpetual partners of power, who cluster around the PFL [Liberal Front Party] of Antonio Carlos Magalhaes. The continuity of this alternative give a neatly conservative touch to the party." It adds: "Fernando Henrique Cardoso's name is being put at the service of conservative elites as the only alternative to face the reform movement represented by Lula's candidacy." The letter calls on PSDB members to prevent the party from "heading a conservative coalition" and calls on them to join Lula's campaign.

In the third document, which opposes the economic plan, the PT assures that the plan is "an ongoing electoral fraud led by the same Cruzado plan team." The document also attacks Cardoso, saying: "That is the context within which he obtained his only victory through a vote." The Radical Democracy, led by Sao Paulo Deputy Jose Genoino, was the only PT movement that disagreed with excluding the PSDB from the policy of alliances. "Narrowing the scope of the policy of alliances will reduce the conditions of governability of the future Lula government," he criticized.

At another meeting, the state PT board yesterday decided to rule out the possibility of forming a coalition with the PSDB for the election in Sao Paulo. The board also debated on Deputy Jose Dirceu's campaign for governor, and nominated former Prefects Luiza Erundina and Telma de Souza as candidates for the Senate.

On Saturday evening, the national PT board allowed PT lawmakers to participate in the constitutional reform. The victory of the party bloc, which disagreed with the prohibition imposed by party leaders, was by 33 votes against 19, and marked the defeat of party radicals.

Lula, the virtual PT presidential candidate, yesterday criticized PSDB President Tasso Jereissati and Finance Minister Cardoso. Lula said Jereissati was "relapsing on conservatism, neoliberalism, and backwardness," because his party approached the PFL. Lula said he laments that Cardoso "is not interested in debating a progressive solution for Brazil."

Lula claims that the PSDB is abandoning social democracy. "It is deeply lamentable that Jereissati, who began his political career by breaking the rule of bosses who dominated the northeast, should now have this conservative syndrome, seeking an alliance with the retrograde PFL, the party of Jorge Bornhausen, Ricardo Fiuza, Marco Maciel, Antonio Carlos Magalhaes, and Joaquim Francisco," Lula said before comparing Jereissati's behavior with a sickness. "It is a dangerous relapse. It is necessary to find a vaccine because the epidemics is serious."

Lula admitted that the PT is concerned about Cardoso's possible candidacy: "At a time when we can decide whether to put the destiny of the country in conservative or progressive hands, they chose the former." He said PSDB members will not agree to a coalition with Bornhausen's party. "The grassroots, who in 1990 prevented the party from falling into Collor's hands, will now prevent it from falling into PFL hands."

Former President Sarney Not To Run For Presidency
PY0903013594 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 1 Mar 94 p A7

[Article by Mara Bergamashi]

[Excerpt] Sao Luis, Maranhao State—Former President Jose Sarney, who already occupies second place in the electoral polls, is the first candidate to retire from this year's presidential race. "I am out of this contest," Sarney said on 28 February after returning to his house on Calhau Beach to recover from a tachycardia crisis that forced him to go to the hospital during the weekend. Surrounded by his relatives and wearing a safari shirt and leather sandals, the former president decided to extend his rest for a few more days and postpone his return to Brasilia until 1 March.

The former president did not attribute to his heart problem the decision to give up the presidential campaign. Sarney is a Brazilian Democratic Movement Party senator for Amapa State. He said he has "never" wanted to return to Planalto Palace. Justifying the fact that his name is always in evidence, he said: "Politicians talk too much." Sarney's decision not to run for the presidency, however, was ignored even by the newspaper he owns. Before the former president was hospitalized, the ESTADO DO MARANHAO daily published in big letters a note stating that the Liberal Front Party governors believed Sarney would be "the strongest and most talked about" presidential candidate. [passage omitted]

\$1 Million in Fake U.S. Currency Seized

PY0803024694 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 7 Mar 94

[Text] More than \$1 million in counterfeit bills printed in Colombia are being distributed nationwide. The size, color, and type of printing of these bills are the best ever found in Brazil. No fake dollars previously found in the

country are so similar to real dollar bills. Federal Police experts are impressed. The 1,000 bills of \$100 seized at Manaus International Airport even have metal protection bands.

Former mason Astenio Nunes de Souza and businessman Juarez de Paula Sobrinho, who live in Manaus, confessed to buying the counterfeit bills in Colombia to sell them in Belem, Para State; Rio de Janeiro; and Sao Paulo.

Federal Police already are convinced that the dollar bills are being printed in Colombia because counterfeiting is only considered a crime in that country when counterfeit Colombian money is printed. To print any other counterfeit currency is only a misdemeanor and the counterfeiter can, at most, be fined for doing it.

For that reason, Federal Police today sent Colombian authorities an official letter calling for an urgent investigation, particularly in Leticia, which is a town separated from Brazil by nothing but a street.

At Tabatinga, on the Brazilian side, Federal Police have reinforced border controls. On this side of the border, buying or selling counterfeit dollars can result in five years in jail.

Police Investigate Drug-Weapons Trafficking Link
PY0803224394 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Feb 94 Section 4 p 4

[Article by Sergio Torres]

[Text] Brazilian cocaine and marijuana for Russian rifles, machine guns, bombs, and ammunition. This exchange is allegedly being negotiated by Rio de Janeiro drug traffickers and African guerrilla elements who, since the 1970's, have received weapons manufactured in the former USSR. This week the Rio de Janeiro PF (Federal Police) started to investigate the relationship between Brazilian drug traffickers and African guerrilla elements.

Rio de Janeiro PF Superintendent Edson Antonio de Oliveira, 42, said the suspicion regarding the exchange of drugs for weapons surfaced with the confiscation in Rio de Janeiro shantytowns of ammunition made in the former USSR member countries.

The occupation of the Mangueira shantytown (in northern Rio de Janeiro) by agents of the Civil and Military Police early this week interrupted the "war" between drug rings that has already resulted in 14 deaths, and the seizing of Russian-made AK-47 Kalashnikov rifle shells. This rifle can fire up to 800 shots per minute.

Oliveira said that the foreign weapons acquired by the Rio de Janeiro drug traffickers usually come via Miami (United States) and Paraguay. The superintendent asserted: "Russian weapons do not come through these two routes because this type of weapon or ammunition do not exist in Miami or Paraguay."

The PF investigations have shown that the Russian weapons may be coming from Africa through the Middle East and Asian countries such as Afghanistan, that have overcome difficult phases of regional wars and battles.

Oliveira commented: "Russian weapons are cheaper because there are great quantities of them in African countries in conflict and in Lebanon. We are greatly concerned. As soon as these conflicts are over, the excess weapons are put up for sale."

The contacts between Rio de Janeiro underground organizations and terrorists of countries such as Angola, Namibia, and Zaire may be being made by Africans who enter Brazil as tourists.

A new route for the international trafficking of weapons may be being established the same way as Africans acted as middlemen for the shipment of cocaine from Brazil to Europe—the Nigerian connection.

Since the 1980's Rio de Janeiro represents a sort of supermarket for the population of poor African countries. Thousands of Angolans, Nigerians, Zairians, and Ghanaians come to Rio de Janeiro every year as tourists and return loaded with all sorts of merchandise (from sandals to electrical appliances).

The PF is investigating whether these tourists are not representatives of guerrilla organizations, in charge of maintaining contact with Rio de Janeiro criminal organizations such as the CV (Red Commando) and the TC (Third Commando).

Groups of policemen specialize in supplying drugs and foreign weapons to drug traffickers linked to the CV and TC. Parallel investigations carried out by the Civil and Federal Police came to the same conclusion.

The DRE (Drug Control Precinct) of the Civil Police has identified groups of suppliers made up of civil, military, and federal agents. These groups sell sophisticated weapons that usually arrive in Rio de Janeiro through the international airport (northern zone), on their way to the drug traffickers.

One of the groups of suppliers is allegedly headed by Civil Police Detective Cesar Pereira da Silva. DRE Director Walter Alves de Oliveira, 54, said the group sold weapons and drugs to Orlando da Conceicao, or Orlando Jogador, who is regarded by the police as one of the biggest drug traffickers in Rio de Janeiro. Jogador has cocaine and marijuana "sale spots" in the Bonsucesso, Penha, and Ramos shantytowns in northern Rio de Janeiro. Pereira da Silva was arrested last December.

Disputes Weaken, Divide Drug Rings in Rio

PY0903000194 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 27 Feb 94 Section 4 p 4

[Text] The "war" waged by rival drug traffickers of Mangueira shantytown, which has already resulted in 14 deaths, reveals that the CV (Red Commando) and the TC

(Third Commando) are becoming weaker and more divided. This change began in the late 1980's following the arrest of the main leaders.

This version on the situation of trafficking in the Rio de Janeiro shantytowns—with incidents during the past years—is upheld by a "friend" of CV leaders who chose to remain anonymous. He said that the "media" has created an image of power that these groups never enjoyed. He added: "Moreover, most drug traffickers have always been independent."

Another person who does not believe in the power of the CV and TC as organizations is Prosecutor Raphael Cesario, 55, who believes that this oversizing—nourished by some policemen—is designed to protect the true cocaine and weapons traffickers: The numbers game operators. Cesario says people "are stupid" if they believe the great traffickers "live in shantytowns surrounded by cockroaches and open sewers."

Colombia

Prosecutor General's Office Protests DEA Visit

PA0903015694 Santa Fe de Bogota Inrvasion
Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Mar 94

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] The prosecutor general's [Gustavo de Grieff] questionable situation moved into even deeper water this afternoon. When he was about to meet with Cali Cartel lawyers, he received a surprise visit by the DEA director in Colombia.

Attorney Bernardo Gonzalez, representative of Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela, and Attorney Juan Fernandez Carrasquilla, representative of Julio Fabio Ordinola Grajales, arrived this afternoon at the prosecutor general's office to confirm that their intentions to surrender remain firm. Although the slated meeting did not take place because de Grieff left hastily to meet with President Cesar Gaviria, the visit of the DEA director in Colombia caused surprise. Authorized prosecutor general's office spokesmen said it was regrettable that the U.S. Government, through the DEA, meddles in the surrender process. According to the attorneys, the Colombian Government has not allowed the surrender.

[Begin recording] [Fernandez] In our opinion, the delay is the government's fault.

[Unidentified reporter] Why?

[Fernandez] Because the government has not decided yet to guarantee the jail. Before any more steps are taken in the negotiations, the Justice Ministry must guarantee the prosecutor general's office that the inmates will not be moved from the place where they surrender. [end recording]

To conclude, the attorneys said that their clients' surrender will be done individually and not in the name of the drug cartel.

Bomb Attack Against Justice Palace Aborted

PA0803222194 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1935 GMT
8 Mar 94

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 8 Mar (DPA)—Colombian police have prevented a group of communist guerrillas from detonating a bomb at the Justice Palace in the southern city of Florencia. Had the bomb exploded, it would have caused significant damage. Police spokesmen indicated that the attack was aborted as a result of capturing six subversives who were preparing a 20-kg bomb a short distance from the building where the Florencia justice courts operate. Florencia is the capital of Caqueta Department.

The guerrillas, apparently Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia members, were captured after the police defused a car bomb at the airport in the southwestern city of Cali last night. According to General Jose Reyes, commander of Cali's metropolitan police, the car bomb, manufactured with 14 kg of dynamite, was parked near the "Alfonso Bonilla Aragon" airport by urban guerrilla cells.

Beginning a month ago, subversive groups increased their terrorist actions to impede next Sunday's parliamentary elections, specifically by kidnapping mayors and congressional candidates, ambushing soldiers and police, and attacking towns.

Roundup of Economic Developments

PA0803193094

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on Colombian economic developments monitored through 8 March.

EL TIEMPO has conducted a poll in Santa Fe de Bogota and Cali, determining "the cost of Colombians' basic basket increased approximately 3 percent during the first 20 days of February. This leads us to believe the increase will reach 3.5 percent by the end of the month and that the accumulated increase for the first two months of the year could reach 6.7 percent. This is a high and alarming rate, because the government expects to lull the cost of living increase at 19 percent by the end of the year." The newspaper survey has also determined "meat, rice, coffee, lentils, and several fruits are mostly responsible for February's inflation." (Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 28 Feb 94 pp 1a, 1b)

The National Administrative Department of Statistics (Dane) has reported the country's inflation rate amounted to 3.63 percent in February, "the highest February rate in the last 10 years." It has also reported "increased school tuitions and supplies and strong increases in the prices of certain produce prompted this month's increase in the cost of living." (Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 2 Mar 94 pp 1a, 1c, 3c)

Ecuador

Defense Minister Repeats Denial of Coup Rumors

PA0903040094 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0208 GMT
8 Mar 94

[Text] Quito, 7 Mar (EFE)—On behalf of the Armed Forces, Ecuadoran Defense Minister General Jose Gallardo said today that "smoke does not mean there is a fire," referring to rumors that a coup d'etat is being prepared against the government of President Sixto Duran-Ballen.

"In this case, the smoke does not mean there is a fire. Not at all. There is no justification for a coup d'etat in Ecuador because the country needs to live in democracy to be able to build its future," declared the general at a local television station.

Gallardo added: "The Armed Forces are quite conscious of the respect they owe to the people's will; they are loyal and aware that such an action would prompt international isolation and internal problems. Thus, I believe we should never again talk about coups d'etat in Ecuador."

Recently, Duran-Ballen on several occasions has had to deny such a possibility, as well as deny his resignation in favor of Vice President Alberto Dahik.

The defense minister referred to U.S. Ambassador Peter Romero's recent statements recommending that Ecuador forget its territorial demands from neighboring Peru. The Peruvian and Ecuadoran Armed Forces have clashed twice in the past 50 years. "All I can say is that Ecuadoran sovereignty issues, especially those that are so painful to Ecuadoreans, such as territorial problems, only concern Ecuadoreans. The Ecuadoran Armed Forces are capable of guaranteeing the defense of the country; they have a vocation for peace, but also our people's great dignity," he declared.

Majority Wants Referendum on Reforms

PA0803135594 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Mar 94

[From "The Voz Andes Newscast"]

[Text] Two-thirds of the people in Quito and Guayaquil are in favor of the referendum convoked by the government on constitutional reforms. The Guayaquil daily EL UNIVERSO reports that out of 600 persons polled 63 percent said they agree with holding a referendum, while 37 percent said they are opposed to it. EL UNIVERSO adds that 66 percent do not know what the questions of the referendum are, while 34 percent do know what they are.

Other questions asked were whether congress should be a single chamber as it has been up to now or whether there should be two chambers. Another question was on the issue of double nationality for emigrants who have acquired another citizenship.

Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen announced that on 1 May there will be a referendum on eight questions that refer to elections, duration of deputies' terms, reelection for presidential and other public offices, and parliamentary control over state funds.

The referendum has been criticized by the majority of Ecuadoran political sectors, who say that it is unconstitutional and irrelevant. However, the poll discloses that the majority of people support the referendum.

The same poll states that 33 percent of people feel that the questions are very important; 34 percent say they are quite important; 27 percent describe the questions as not very important; while only 6 percent believe they are not important at all.

Prices Increase 4 Percent in Feb

PA0803212894

[Editorial Report] Quito Voz del Andes in Spanish at 2300 GMT on 1 March reports that the Institute of Statistics and Census, INEC, has reported that prices rose 4 percent in February, whereas they rose 1.75 percent in January and 1.73 percent in February 1993.

Paraguay

Article Views Workers' Congress, Scheduled Strike

PY0903004794 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 7 Mar 94 p 6

[Text] The main leaders of the national labor unions have deemed historic the decisions adopted yesterday by the national workers' congress that was organized by the CUT [United Workers Trade Union Federation], the CNT [National Workers Federation], and the CPT [Paraguayan Confederation of Workers]. It was held at the National Sports Council stadium. Some 300 grassroots delegates participated in the congress. One of the most important conclusions reached was to stage a general strike on 2 May.

A national struggle committee was established, headed by the top leaders of the labor unions. The committee will be in charge of coordinating the strike. The leaders said the current economic policy, as well as the government officials' "lack of social sensitivity" are behind the call for a general strike. The last such strike in our country was staged 36 years ago, in 1958.

The leaders who attended the congress also decided to condition to three issues the presence of the labor unions in the tripartite round of negotiations on the macro-social policy, which they have been holding with the government and entrepreneurs. The first condition calls for the immediate release of the leaders of the transportation sector labor unions, who were arrested on 6 March in Quiindy. The second calls for release of the peasant leaders who are being kept at the former Security Guard

facilities. The third calls for the automatic dismissal of all members of the Administrative Council of the Social Welfare Institute and the end to repressive measures against any demonstrations by workers or peasants.

The workers congress also decided to participate actively, with all its grassroots, in the peasants' march scheduled for 15 March. The march will start with a gathering at the former Metropolitan Seminary and parade along Eusebio Ayala Avenue to Uruguay Square. From there, the demonstrators will try to reach the National Congress building.

The transportation sector labor unions and some teachers' organizations will also participate in the march. The teachers will stage a 24-hour stoppage on that same day.

It was also decided during the congress to support the general strike to be staged by the urban buses drivers, which has been scheduled for 21 March. The USTT [Transportation Sector Workers Trade Union] and the Petrat [Transportation Sector Workers Federation] have reported that if Roberto Medina and Samuel Arguello, the leaders who were arrested in Quiindy, are not released by tomorrow the transportation sector strike will be moved forward to 15 March.

The national workers' congress decided to ask the government to readjust by 40 percent the current minimum wage. It is expected the government will show signs of willing to meet this demand before 2 May. If this occurs, the official attitude will be considered a sign of "good-will."

Peru

Army Kills Patrol 'Terrorist'; Weapons Seized

PY0903030994 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0046 GMT 8 Mar 94

[Text] Huancayo, Peru, 7 Mar (EFE)—It was reported here today that last week an Army patrol killed a terrorist and the police seized a large volume of weapons, ammunition, and explosives in various areas in Junin Department.

The political-military command issued a communique, which was disseminated today in Huancayo, Junin's capital, saying that on 4 March an Army patrol, alerted by local inhabitants, captured a terrorist group in Ipoki, between the jungle settlements of Satipo and Chanchamayo.

The communique says that an undetermined number of subversives escaped, although one of them was wounded by the military. The wounded subversive died while on his way to a hospital.

The terrorist had in his possession two grenades and Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) propaganda. This group has been practically disbanded by security forces.

On 3 and 4 March police raided three residences in the area surrounding Huancayo, 315 km east of Lima, and

seized a large number of weapons, explosives, two grenade boxes, diverse caliber ammunition, and military clothing.

The residences allegedly served as arsenals and hideouts for Shining Path activists. The police source did not give details but added that several people were detained.

According to private and public statistics disseminated today, terrorist activities are gradually decreasing in the country. The relative Shining Path and MRTA presence has been reduced to only three areas in the country in recent years.

Both subversive organizations have been hard hit by security forces since 1992 and 95 percent of their leaders have been captured and sentenced to life in prison, including Shining Path's highest-ranking leader, Abimael Guzman, and MRTA top leader Victor Polay.

Russian Fishing Ships Licensed for Peruvian Waters

PY0903120494 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish
18 Feb 94 p A14

[Report by special correspondent Samuel Lizana Salvatierra]

[Excerpt] Pisco, 17 Feb—According to Fisheries Ministry Resolution No. 371-93-PE, issued last 31 December, the 11 Russian ships hired by the Pesquera Seral, Inc. fishing company will operate in Peruvian waters until next 31 December.

The lease contract can be extended, and also grants two of the ships, the Yunino and the Aves, with capacities of 8 and 35 metric tons respectively, a license to process frozen fish.

The resolution also states that authorization for this contract is provided for in Article No. 5 of the General Fisheries Law and other complementary government resolutions promoting private investments in the fishing field.

The request for authorization was submitted to the Fisheries Ministry by Pesquera Seral, Inc. last 8 October, according to application No. 553 mentioned in the resolution that was submitted for implementation to the Port Authority and Coastguard Directorate of this city. [passage omitted]

DPRK Vice President Meets Congress Vice President

PY0803214794 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 24 Feb 94
p A6

[Text] DPRK Vice President Kim Pyong Sik, who is the chairman of the North Korean Social Democratic Party's Central Committee, is paying an unofficial visit to Peru. He yesterday attended a ceremony marking the 94th anniversary of the birth of Dr. Luciano Castillo Colonna, the founder of the Peruvian Socialist Party.

The ceremony was attended by DPRK Ambassador to Peru Kim Gyong Jo, by Dr. Maria Cabredo de Castillo, and by other Socialist Party members.

The DPRK diplomat said Kim Pyong has been in Peru for some days to exchange views with representatives of various political parties, among them are the New Majority-Change 90, the Popular Action, and the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance].

He said that during his stay in Lima, the visitor met with First Vice President of Congress Carlos Torres y Torres Lara. The DPRK vice president will leave for Ecuador and other South American countries.